



Established 1876

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Under the Education Act 1972, children from 6 years of age but not yet 16, are of compulsory school age. A condition of enrolment is that the student fully participates in the education program including engagement and attendance. Children not of compulsory age but enrolled in school (for example under 6 years of age) are required to participate as those students of compulsory age but may be modified to suit their specific needs.

As research shows the success in learning is directly proportional to regular attendance and participation in education programs. We therefore aim for every Nailsworth student to regularly attend school.

IF A CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

Parent/caregivers are required to provide a **written explanation** for student absence within a reasonable time frame. Ideally, for safety reasons this absence should be received on the same day of the absence. Emailing the school on the day of the absence is the preferred mode of communication. The absence email address is dl.0305.admin@schools.sa.edu.au A phone call to explain the absence or a note in the student's communication book or diary is also acceptable. For extended sickness, a doctor's certificate is required. All student absence information is entered into the school's management system each day by school staff.

IF A CHILD IS LATE

Teachers mark their class rolls first thing in the morning at 8:45am, so late is after 8:50am. If a student arrives later than 8:50am the parent signs child/ren into the Front Office and students are issued with a late card to take to their class teacher.

IF A CHILD IS PICKED UP EARLY

A parent informs the Front Office of early departure and signs the child out in the early departure book and takes the early departure card to the child's class and gives it to the teacher.

IF A CHILD IS GOING ON HOLIDAYS OR HAS EXTENDED MEDICAL CONCERNS IN SCHOOL TIME

Parents are required to apply for an exemption from school to take children on holidays in school time or for extended absences as a result of medical conditions. Exemption forms can be accessed from the school's website – 'School Information/Information for Parents/Forms'.

ONGOING ATTENDANCE/LATENESS ISSUES

Research has shown that once students begin to absent themselves from school, and the initial cause of this remains undetected or unexplored, it is likely that the pattern will continue and escalate through a student's subsequent school career. Late arrival at school through primary years is often related to non-attendance during secondary school. It is therefore important that we encourage all students of Nailsworth Primary School to regularly attend and not develop patterns of being late. Regular school attendance can be influenced by many factors such as school organisation and climate, bullying and harassment, curriculum, teaching practices, student-teacher relationships, gender, socio-economic status, cultural diversity, disability and family and personal circumstances. Poor school attendance can result in children being socially isolated; placing themselves at risk of personal harm during times of absence; having reduced like choices; being more likely to be involved in socially unacceptable and/or illegal activities.

If parents are struggling to get their children to come to school, we encourage them to contact their child's teacher or school leadership so we can work together on a solution. In cases where a pattern is starting to occur, school leadership will contact families. If no resolution can be reached, this will be referred to the DECD attendance counsellors.