

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WHEN IS IT OK TO MISS SCHOOL?

It is important for children to attend school all day, every day.

When is it OK to not go to school?

An OK reason is one that *prevents* your child from getting to school. This could include:

- when your child is sick or unwell
- attending cultural or religious observances
- an unavoidable natural event such as flood waters or a cyclone
- an unavoidable medical appointment

The principal decides if the reason given for your child's absence is acceptable.



It's NOT OK to miss school if your child:

- is celebrating a birthday
- is going on a family holiday
- is visiting family and friends
- has slept in or had a big weekend
- is looking after other children
- has sport or other recreational activities that have not been approved by the school
- has appointments such as haircuts and minor check ups

If possible, routine medical and other health appointments should be made either before or after school, or during the school holidays.

For more information please contact:

Mrs Claire Slater – Associate Principal 9296 4622



Do you need to let the school know if your child will be away from school?

Yes, you need to let the classroom teacher or front office know the reason why your child is going to be, or has been, absent from school as soon as possible.

This requires a responsible person, usually a parent, to provide a reason for the absence within three school days.

You can do this in person, by phoning the school, via SMS (0437 057 976), email upperswan.ps@education.wa.edu.au or a written note.

Where possible, please discuss any upcoming absences in advance with your child's teacher or Mrs Claire Slater – Associate Principal.

Having information about why your child is missing school helps us plan for their return to school and work out whether we can provide any further help to you.



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Why is going to school so important?

- At school, many concepts are taught in a sequence. Missing school means missing out on learning – which can often make it difficult to catch up later.
- Going to school every day helps children learn the important life skill of 'showing up' – at school, at work, to sport and other commitments.
- Research from the Western Australian Telethon Kids Institute shows that every day at school counts towards a student's learning. Students who attend regularly, generally do better at school and in life.

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