

Why Staying Away

Is Never OK!

It's not ok.....because school enables children to build on their knowledge and skills each day, each week and each year.

It's not ok.....because children can miss out on the basic skills and may experience difficulties later with their learning.

It's not ok.....because school helps children build confidence in areas such as communication, teamwork, organization and social skills.

It's not ok.....because going to school is a legal requirement and there are fines associated with this.



The law states all children from Pre Primary to Year 12 must attend school (or have an alternative educational or workplace arrangement).

Under the law, you are responsible for making sure your child goes to school on ALL school days. You must not keep your child away from school for minor reasons.

It's not ok to be soft on school attendance... because we want all children to be their best.



What the law says:

Under Western Australian law (School Education Act 1999), parents must send their children to school unless:

- They are too unwell.
- They have an infectious disease.
- The principal is provided with a genuine and acceptable reason.

You must let the school know within three days why your child is not attending.

Under the law, schools must:

- Monitor attendance of students.
- Follow up with parents and caregivers on student absences.

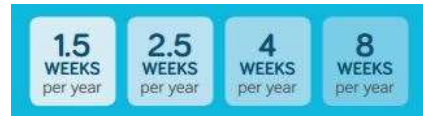
If your child is missing



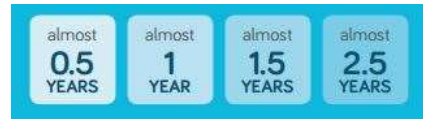
that equals.....



which is.....



over 13 years of school that is.....



What happens when your child misses school without a valid reason?

- Your school will ask you for an explanation.
- Your school will meet with you to discuss ongoing issues and plan a response.
- A School Attendance Panel will be set up to review the steps taken and provide advice.
- In some cases you might be fined.

Support and help for families

If your child is reluctant or refuses to go to school, or is missing school without you knowing, there is support and help available.

Contact: RSHS Education Support Centre
Phone: 9523 7600

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What should I do if my child is unwell?

A: Inform the school and provide a medical certificate if requested.

Q: What should I do if my child refuses to go to school?

A: Contact your school as soon as possible and the school will arrange advice/support.

Q: What should I do if we are going on holiday during school time?

A: Holidays during school time can be detrimental to your child's learning. The Principal of your school may not consider this an approved absence. Where at all possible you should try to arrange during vacation periods.

Q: Can I take my child out of school for social occasions?

A: No. This is not considered reasonable. You should arrange social occasions such as personal shopping trips and birthday celebrations out of school hours.

Q: Will my child be marked absent from school if he/she is doing a VET, Registered Training Organization program?

A: No as long as this is part of the school program. Attendance at these programs is also monitored.



Further Information & Support:

Talk with the school about your child's attendance or any support you may need. We have a Student Support Team who can help with strategies and provide relevant support.



Attendance Contact number:

0481 006 137

(08) 9523 7600

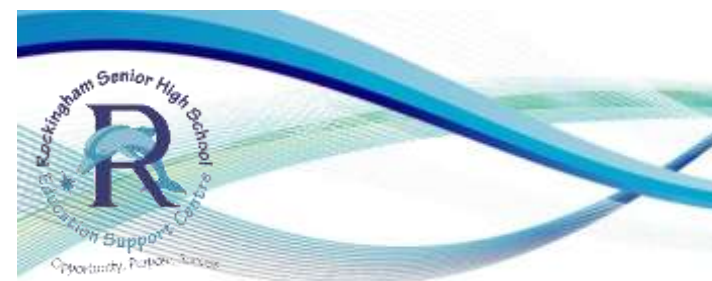
Rockingham SHS Education Support Centre

15 Read St, ROCKINGHAM WA 6168

www.rockinghamshsesc.wa.edu.au



Government of Western Australia
Department of Education
South Metropolitan Education Regional Office



Rockingham Senior High School

EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE



Staying Away is

NEVER OK

School Attendance

= [equals]

**Parent Caregiver
Responsibility**