

## Compulsory Enrolment And Attendance At School

Under the Education Act of South Australia, parents and guardians are legally responsible for the regular attendance of all children in their care between the ages of 6 and 17. Children of all ages who are enrolled in a school must also attend.

### Is Regular Attendance Important?

YES, from the very first day. If children miss the basic skills in the early years of school, they often experience learning difficulties later on, both educationally and socially.

Research has shown that irregular attendance in the early school years can lead to poor patterns of attendance in primary and then secondary years.

### Must I Send My Child To School?

YES. All children who are enrolled in an educational setting are expected to attend on a regular basis.

## Must I Send My Child Everyday?

**YES, unless:**

- The child is **too** sick to leave the house.
- The child has an infectious disease such as chicken pox, mumps or measles.
- The child has an injury preventing movement around the school.
- The child is going with his/her parents/ guardian on a family holiday that cannot be arranged during the school holidays. This should be arranged with the Principal prior to the absence.
- The Principal is provided with a genuine and acceptable reason preventing the child's attendance.

**Wherever possible, dental and medical appointments should be made out of school hours.**

### What are the long term effects of missing school regularly?

- Gaps in knowledge and understanding from missing learning.
- Loss of opportunities for play, social interaction and friendship development.
- Lack of continuity resulting in feeling less secure within the school environment.
- Increased likelihood of leaving school early.

## Attendance Procedures

Lesson times are 8:50am—3:00pm.

A Teacher is on duty from 8:30am. Students arriving before this time will be directed to sit on the benches outside the staff room until the bell rings. Having your child arrive unsupervised before 8:30am is a safety concern.

### If a student is absent:

1. Parents/Guardians must notify the school by phone, by MPS App, in person or by sending a note/email to the school.
2. If planning to be away for an extended period of time, apply for an exemption through the Front Office.

### Arriving late or leaving early:

1. If arriving after 9:00am, enter through the Front Office to sign the student in and receive a late note.
2. If leaving early, sign the student out in the Front Office then take a early departure note to the teacher and collect your child.

### Should I notify the school if my child refused to go to school?:

YES. You should notify the Class Teacher as soon as possible.

**Partnerships between the school and home are important and can maximize learning opportunities for children.**

## How Can I Help My Child Be A Regular Attendee At School?

- Teaching your child that school is important and that learning is fun.
- Visit the school and your child's class to get to know their teacher.
- Ensure your child has a good night sleep.
- Have a morning routine which your child understands.
- Find time each day to discuss what your child has been doing at school. Ask for 3 good things that happened during the day.
- Ensure your child's uniform is ready to wear to school and has age appropriate organisational skills.
- Ensure your child arrives for school between 8:30am and 8:50am so they are organised and ready for the day.
- Yard supervision begins at 8:30am. If your child arrives at school prior to this time, they will be directed to the benches outside the staffroom until the bell goes.

## Being Late Or Absent Adds Up From Reception To Year 10

	Reception—Year 10	Total Time Absent
<b>Absent</b>	1 day per week	2 years and 1 term
<b>Late</b>	30 minutes each	Over one year of

**Students cannot be successful at school if they are missing whole years of learning.**

**For more information please contact your child's class teacher on:**

**Ph: 8332 0501**

### **Marryatville Primary School**

Dankel Ave  
Kensington SA 5068

Phone: 8332 0501  
Fax: 8332 4947  
E-mail: dl.0249\_info@schools.sa.edu.au



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education



**Marryatville Primary School**

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*Ambition with Honour Building Community Enjoy Learning*

# Student Attendance

Is Your Child At School?

**ATTENDANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**