

Applecross Primary School

Guidelines for Limiting the Impact of Extended Student Absence

Reviewed: MAY26

Rationale

Parents are expected to take family vacations during school holidays. Research shows in-term absences significantly impact on student achievement. Under the Education Act 1999 parents are required to have children attend school each day of term, unless authorised leave has been approved on compassionate grounds.

Purpose

These guidelines assist parents to:

- Consider the impact family holidays during term can have on student progress (see [DoE's 'The impact of holidays during school time Information for Parents'](#))
- Realise they have a legal responsibility to get their child to school every day, and
- Understand that the continuation of their child's learning is very important

Occasionally families do need to attend significant events during the school term. This guide will assist parents to plan their arrangements to minimise the impact this has on student learning.

Guidelines

This guide relates to an absence that occurs when students are taken out of school for a family event or vacation. Absences of this kind are marked as "unauthorised" and will remain on the child's school attendance record.

Please consider the following to reduce the impact of an extended absence:

- Notify the absence in advance to the Principal or delegate
- Ensure the absence is for a reasonable duration
- Articulate the work they propose their child will complete whilst away
- Outline the learning benefit the vacation might offer their child, and how they propose to capitalise on this

Conclusion

The school will work with parents to minimise the potential disruption to learning programs that extended absences can cause.

Next Review: MAY27

Information for parents – The impact of holidays during school time

Developing the habit of going to school every day is vitally important so your child does not miss out on important ideas and skills they need for future learning.

This is why we strongly encourage you not to go on family holidays during school time.

Why is going to school regularly so important?

At school, many concepts (such as literacy and numeracy) are taught in a sequence. Missing school means missing out on learning – which can often make it difficult to catch up later. This is particularly important in the early years when essential foundation skills are being taught.

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 more, generally do better at school and in life.

The *School Education Act 1999* does not allow principals to give permission for families to take holidays during the school term. As students are required to attend school every day, time off for holidays is recorded as an absence.

What can you do?

We strongly encourage you to organise holidays during school holiday periods to make sure your child doesn’t miss out on school.

Please contact office staff if you have been considering taking a holiday during the school term. This will allow us to discuss the learning your child would be missing out on.

For more information you can contact the school to arrange for an interpreter.