Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you to all of those parents who took the time to attend one or more of the ‘Meet the Parent’ sessions last week. I trust that you found these sessions helpful and informative. I would also like to thank our dedicated teachers for their commitment to ensuring that parents were fully informed about the school year ahead.

Student Representative Council:-
Congratulations to the 30 students who have been elected to represent the views and opinions of their class as part of the Student Representative Council in 2015. I look forward to many interesting conversations and suggestions from this group.

The representatives are – Lachlan M & Kayla C (2B); Lachlan V & Abigail C (2H); Liam I & Luella N (2N); Hamish G & Sienna S (3/4N); Oscar V & Mia S (3C); Jacob K & Alicia K (3F); Lachlan M & Sophie T (3C); Darcy M & Viktoria C (4/5S); Luke F & Gianna Mc (4R); Joshua W & Mia Liberty (4W); Theo M & Annabelle C (5A); Matthew R & Lauren S (5T); Micheal K & Hannah Thomas (6B); Hamish C & Zoe K (6C); Shamyl B & Katherine L (6W). These students all received their badges at an Induction Assembly on Monday.

Front entrance planter boxes:
Thank you to Mrs Rawlin and the students of 4R for assuming responsibility for planting new seedlings in the planter boxes at the entrance to our Administration building.

I think the newly planted snap dragons will certainly brighten up the entrance to our school. Thank you also for planting the new plant in the colourful mosaic pot donated by the 2014 Year 6 students. Gardening can be such a rewarding activity and helps to make our school entrance look even more welcoming!
Before School supervision of students: With the start of the new school year and the enrolment of 94 new kindergarten students – staff on duty from 8:30 in the top playground are concerned with the level of congestion restricting their line sight and ability to effectively ensure the safety of both students and pre-schoolers.

As school staff is actively on duty in the playground from 8:30am each morning it is appropriate for parents to say good bye and move away. This promotes independence and allows your children to socialise and develop their friendships. Staff would also appreciate your support in discouraging your school aged and pre-school children from playing in the areas deemed as ‘out of bounds’. Allowing your children to play on the Friendship, the silver seats or in the Passive play area before school is in contrast to the school rules and what is expected by on duty staff.

West Pennant Hills Behaviour Code: Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the School’s Behaviour Code for your information. The behaviour Code highlights not only every student’s rights but also their responsibilities. These rights and responsibilities are regularly discussed with students reminding them that with rights we all have responsibilities. This Behaviour Code is on display in each of the classrooms.

Student Safety:- I regularly witness parents putting the safety of their own children at risk as they drop off and/or pick up from school by pulling into the staff car park. I appreciate that parking around the school is restrictive and that parents are often in a hurry but it essential that we all demonstrate and encourage safe pedestrian behaviour for our students at all times!

Once again I remind all parents to be mindful of the volume of vehicular movement within the staff car park and request that parents do not drop off or collect their children from the car park.

Please be aware that the car park is out of bounds for all students so let’s start the new school year by encouraging and modelling safe behaviours for all of our students.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter

School Uniform: All of our students have looked so smart in their new uniforms these first few weeks and I am keen to encourage this through-out the year. The wearing of school uniform promotes a sense of pride and belonging. Teachers will be actively acknowledging those students who consistently do the right thing by wearing their school uniform.

Term 1 OOSH Meeting:- Each term I meet with Tracey from YMCA and Mrs Hamper, a parent representative, to discuss any issues related to the provision of after school care services here at WPHPS. Our next scheduled meeting is Friday 6th March.

If you have any issues you would like us to raise please email these to the school and I will ensure they are raised at our meeting.

Book packs: Thank you to the P&C for providing this service to the school community again this year – with special mention to Lisa Wilmshurst, Charmaine Thornhill and their team of volunteers for coordinating this service.

Next P&C Meeting:- will be our Annual General Meeting and will held on Wednesday 11th March in the school Library – at 7:30 for a 7:45pm start. The annual AGM will be conducted prior to the March monthly meeting. If you wish to be a financial P&C member with voting rights you need to pay your 50c membership fee prior to the commencement of the general March meeting.

It was really good to see some new faces at the last P&C meeting. 

Missed a note? – All school notes are available on the school website for your convenience.

Donna Harris
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Message

School Magazine
In previous years we have celebrated student achievements at school annually through the production of a school magazine; the ‘Koolyangara’. This magazine featured many of the successes and events engaged in by our students over the course of the year as well as a class piece.

This year we are trialling a new innovation by sending all students home with their very own DVD featuring photographs from the year 2015. This will be sent home alongside the students’ final school report in term 4.

In this way we will be able to include more content and provide an engaging forum for students to enjoy reflecting on the year gone by. We are also hoping to help out by cutting down on the cost of purchasing the magazine so close to Christmas time.
We look forward to building this exciting memento for our students as the year progresses and hope that it will provide entertainment and fond memories for students and their families for years to come.

**Compulsory School Attendance**

Regular school attendance is vital to ensure the academic and social development of all students. If your child is unable to attend school, please provide your class teacher with a written explanation as soon as possible upon their return to school. If your child will be absent for a longer period, please ensure that you let the class teacher know. Please see the attached information leaflet, ‘Compulsory School Attendance’ and the links on our school website for further information.

**Working With Children Check**

At West Pennant Hills PS, we are lucky to have a great number of parent volunteers supporting teachers and students in their day to day lives at school.

Previously, a form was signed by all volunteers and stored on site that served as a clearance for working with children. The procedure is changing and a ‘Working With Children Check’ is now a prerequisite for anyone in child-related work. It involves a national criminal history check and review of findings of workplace misconduct.

The result of a ‘Working With Children Check’ is either a clearance to work with children for five years, or a bar against working with children.

The Check can be used for any paid or unpaid child-related work in NSW for as long as the worker remains cleared. We would ask our much valued WPHPS parent volunteers to begin this process to ensure that.


**Cyber Safety**

At West Pennant Hills PS we support students in their safe use of technology in a variety of ways. One such way is through supporting our parent community to better understand how to help their children be safe online.

Please see our school website for links to two e-brochures designed by NSW Police to help safeguard children and young people online titled ‘Who’s chatting to your kids?’

Amiee Jahshan  
Deputy Principal

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**School Activities**

**Merit Ribbons**

Congratulations to the following students who have earned a set of seven (7) mini-merts and have been awarded a Merit Award Ribbon.

**Rainbow**  

**English**  

**Mathematics**  

**Science and Technology**  
Scarlett 2N, Oliver 2B, Kourosh 2B, Zoe 3F

**HSIE**

**Creative Arts**  
Oliver 2B, Megan 3F, Luella 2N

**PDHPE**  
Oliver 2B, Rebecca 2B, Kourosh 2B, Aiden 1F, Rylea 3F
MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL OFFICE

Please note that school office hours are 8.30am to 3.15pm

Payments should be made via the payment slot located at the front office where you or your child can place a clearly labelled envelope with enclosed relevant information. Eftpos/Credit Card facilities are available at the front office until 11.00am daily, after which time a Credit Card payment slip may be completed and processed later. Receipts will be sent home via your child once your payment has been processed. We thank you for your cooperation.

****iPhone FOUND – Please contact front office for further details.

Rose, Cheryl and Angela
The library has a fantastic team of monitors for 2015. Due to the huge interest in the job of library monitor and the outstanding resumes received, the library has 32 eager students ready for the challenge. The team has been split into two groups and will swap roles in Semester 2. The ‘Front of House’ group will be working at lunchtime and in the mornings behind the counter, returning, borrowing and completing other jobs. The ‘Entertainment Committee’ will be responsible for our many exciting theme weeks, competitions and borrowing during their library lessons.


The school subscribes to World Book Online which is the electronic version of the World Book Encyclopaedia. This is a great resource for all students at our school to use. We have access to the Kids Encyclopaedia which is great for years 2-4 and the Student Encyclopaedia which is ideal for years 5 and 6. Students are able to access information from a trustworthy and secure site. There are also timelines to create videos to watch, quizzes to do and links to other websites like the NASA website. Each article comes with information on how to cite it in projects. There is also a citation builder that demonstrates how to create citations for all information sources.

To access this website you will need to Google ‘World book online’ and the click on the topic World book online. The login is ‘wphills’ and the password is ‘books’.

If you have any trouble please come and see me.

Philippa Benson
Librarian

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**P&C News**

**February P&C meeting?**

**Breaking news** ……at our first P&C meeting for the year, last Wednesday 11th February, we approved the introduction of Qkr by Mastercard, for online ordering for the canteen. Soon the days of scrabbling for the correct change and writing on brown paper bags will be gone! There will be a transition period, where both brown paper lunch orders and Qkr orders will be accepted. More information will be given in the coming weeks about using Qkr to order your childrens lunch.

It was great to spend time with 16 other mums on Friday 13th February at the P&C Coffee & Catch up. We chatted about the latest happenings for P&C and we got to hear about school news from Donna, while the toddlers played on the Friendship.

If you want to know what's happening at P&C and you have Friday mornings available, why not join us for the **next P&C Coffee & Catch Up – Friday 13th March**, 9.00am on the deck in the K-2 playground.

**New Parents Lunch, Friday February 27th, 2015**

**All Kindergarten parents and new families to our school** should have received an invitation to the welcome luncheon put on by the P&C. Please let us know you are coming, by leaving your response slip in the P&C tray at the end of the Administration building, by **Monday 23rd February**.

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**Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 1st March**

Do your part to help keep Australia Beautiful and take part in our Clean UP Australia Day working bee at School on **Sunday 1st March 10am – 2.00pm**. Put the date in your diary, and plan to come!

Bring your gardening tools, and let’s tidy the grounds of our great school, together. Morning tea and a sausage sizzle will be provided.

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Need to Contact the P&C Executive?
Ideas? Feedback? Questions? - Email us on westpennhills.pc@gmail.com
Spring Fair Launch Pad - Meeting Wrap Up

Thanks to all the parents who were able to join us at the Spring Fair Launch Pad Meeting and for all the fantastic ideas that they brought along. Preparation is now well underway.

During the meeting we identified 9 teams that are needed to help organise the fair. These are;
1. Site Team - Leader Needed
2. Marketing
3. Sponsorship
4. External Stalls
5. Internal Stalls
6. Rides
7. Food Stalls - Leader Needed
8. Entertainment - Leader Needed
9. Cash Handling

Anyone who is interested in helping on one of these teams or leading them please contact Hannah Dawkins via email at hannah@redretailgroup.com.au

The next Spring Fair Meeting will take place on Thursday 5th March at 7pm in the school library where we will be finalising the parent stalls. If you have any ideas please contact Hannah prior to or come along on the night.

Finally, keep an eye out for parents in the school playground wearing orange hats, they will have all the latest info on the Spring Fair so feel free to have a chat with them and keep up to date.

Hannah Dawkins
Spring Fair Coordinator

Student Banking

West Pennant Hills Public School runs a School Banking program in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bank. Our School Banking Program helps kids develop good saving habits. With hands-on learning experiences, we can help children grow into financially savvy adults.

How it works
- Open a Youthsaver account for your child at your local Commonwealth Bank Branch.
- Kids bring their deposit books into school on a Wednesday. These are collected by the Class Teacher and sent to the office for processing by our Student Banking Volunteers.
- Kids receive a Dollarmites token every time they make a deposit to their savings account at school, regardless of the amount.
- Once they have 10 tokens, they can redeem them for a variety of reward items. See the latest rewards below.
- Youthsaver accounts pay bonus interest if you make at least 1 deposit per month.
- Not only does your child benefit, our school also receives a commission for each deposit.
More Information
If you would like further information, please email wphstudentbanking@gmail.com

Already Banking with Us?
If you would like an email sent to you on Tuesday to remind you of banking day on Wednesday, send us your details at wphstudentbanking@gmail.com

Band News

Band 2015 is well underway – rehearsals for Senior and Performance Bands commenced in week 3, as did music lessons.

UPCOMING EVENTS/NOTICES:

- Junior Band rehearsals will commence in week 6 or 7 (TBC); these will be held on Wednesday mornings in the school hall, at 7.40am for a 7.45am start.
- IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN BAND IN 2015! Any student in Year 3 and up is most welcome to join band. If you are interested, please email Katrina Brain, Band Coordinator, at wphband@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Please make sure that your child is aware of when and where their music lesson is, so that valuable lesson time isn't spent trying to locate the student.
- If your child will be absent from a lesson: Parents must let KMA know if their child will be absent from their lesson (e.g. due to an excursion or sport). Email to absent@keymusicaustralia.com.au.
- Fees: These must be paid on time. Parents will receive a bill from KMA each term for lessons and/or band fees, and a bill from the band committee each semester for instrument hire. Additionally, all band families will receive an invoice for the new resource charge, payable once a year, in the first term/semester. All enquiries re KMA accounts to accounts@keymusicaustralia.com.au.
- Performances: Children need to practice prior to events so that they are prepared for the performance.

Katrina Brain (WPHPS Band Coordinator) or the band committee can be contacted by emailing wphband@gmail.com. General enquiries to KMA can be made to office@keymusicaustralia.com.au.

If any band parents would like to get involved in the band committee, please feel free to come along to our meetings held twice per term (7.30pm Monday evenings of Week 2 and Week 6). For details regarding the venue please contact the band committee.

Band Committee

Canteen News

Thank you to all the new Helping Heroes who have come forward from our school families. It's wonderful to see new faces and we appreciate you supporting us by giving up your valuable time to assist all our hungry children. We love to see you!

K-2 Cupcake orders will be delivered to your children's classroom on Wednesday 25\textsuperscript{th} February. Last orders are due by this Friday 19\textsuperscript{th} February.

Exciting news! Online ordering is coming. Watch this space for more details! Download your QKR app in preparation. For more details follow this link - https://www.commbank.com.au/corporate/industries/qkrschoolpayments.html

Canteen Committee
**Uniform Shop News**

**Opening times**
The Uniform shop will be **OPEN** on the following dates in Term 1

**Wednesday 4th March** 8.30am – 9.15am

**and**

**Wednesday 1st April** 8.30am – 9.15am

**AGM**
Our next Uniform Shop meeting is to be held on **Monday 2nd March at 9.15am** in the **Staff Room**. Everybody is welcome to come along and see how things are run in the Uniform Shop.

**Uniform Shop Mail Order**
We encourage you to use the Uniform Shop Mail Order. Simply complete an order form (located in the Uniform Shop door) and place the completed form in the secure drop box (again located in the Uniform Shop door). All orders will be processed Monday afternoons weekly and items purchased will be handed to your child either Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning.

**Stock notice**
Please note, **boys socks (Grey/Gold) sizes 13-3 & 2-8 are out of stock** until the end of next week.

**Urgently required**
We currently have no girl’s second hand uniform in stock, so if you have any at home that your daughter has grown out of we would be grateful. Please drop off at the office or place in the drop box on the door of the Uniform Shop. Thank you.

**Volunteers**
We are always looking for new volunteers and committee members to help out in the Uniform Shop. It’s a fun way to help out in the school and meet new parents. Younger siblings are welcome to come along too as we have toys for them to play with. If you are interested in helping out please contact Vicki on 0431 263757 or email robertsvicki2@gmail.com

**Dr Shoe**
Offers free home fitting of school and sports shoes. 7am to 11pm, 7 days a week with no minimum order. Call, sms or email Max on 0414 912 838 max@drshoe.com.au

**School Hats**
Please note school caps are still available to purchase from the canteen Tuesday to Friday for $12.

**Uniform Shop Roster for Term 1**

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<th>WEST PENNANT HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP – ROSTER TERM 1</th>
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Thank you
Uniform Committee
Email us at wph.uniform@gmail.com

**Community News**

**The Hills Club**

**Physie (physical culture) classes in Beecroft**

Beginners of all ages welcome! Come and join us for dancing, fun and fitness.

**Girls:** Beecroft Presbyterian Church on Thursday afternoons.

**Ladies:** Beecroft Community Centre on Tuesdays at 9.30am,

or at Beecroft Public School on Thursdays at 7pm.

Enquiries: phone Ronda on 0412 582149

See our website [www.thehillsclubphysie.com](http://www.thehillsclubphysie.com)

**Baulkham Hills Hockey Club**

- **Our Club:** At Baulkham Hills Hockey Club, every player is important to us. We have boys and girls from ages 6 to 17 years old playing in our teams. We have mixed gender teams from U9 (6-9 year olds), U11, U13, U15 and U17 grades.
- **Our Coaches are hockey experts, parents and friends of the club. Parents are encouraged to join and support in any way they can.**
- **Games:** are held on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings from April to September, in the North West Sydney area. Our home ground is at Parramatta Hills Park.

**Inexpensive Fees**

- **2014 Winter Registration**
  - U11 and up - $115.00 includes stick and ball for new players
  - U5 - New Players $80.00 inc stick, ball and shorts
  - U9 - Returning Players $55.00
  - NB: There is a cap of $290.00 per family

**Contact Details**

- **Website:** [baulkhamhillshockey.org.au](http://baulkhamhillshockey.org.au)
- **Email:** communications.bhhc@gmail.com
- **Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/ baulkhamhillshockey](https://www.facebook.com/ baulkhamhillshockey)

**Join us in 2014**

**The Sydney Hills Lunar Festival**

Join us in 2015 - THE YEAR OF THE RAM

**Chinese New Year with a feast of culture, taste & sound**

Saturday 21 February 2015 1-9 pm

[www.thesydneyhills.org.au](http://www.thesydneyhills.org.au) | 9843 0888
Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School

Audition Information for Parents and Students

Years 7 - 11 - 2016

Auditions for Year 7-11, 2016 will be held on:
Wednesday 18th March 2015 - Visual arts.
Thursday 19th & Friday 20th March 2015 - Dance, Drama and Music.

Talented students in Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music are encouraged to apply for positions in the 2016 specialised pathways in either Dance, Drama, Music or Visual Arts.

Local (In Area) students wishing to be part of our selective Creative and Performing Arts program MUST also audition.

NCAPHSS is a specialist Creative and Performing Arts High School offering a broad comprehensive curriculum. Students benefit from a range of curriculum and co-curricular initiatives, specialist teachers, modern performance and technical production facilities in a supportive whole school ethos toward promoting excellence in the Creative and Performing Arts.

Audition application forms can be obtained from our school website (www.northmead.shs.nsw.edu.au) or can be posted or emailed to you directly by contacting NCAPHSS and speaking with Mrs. Stevic on 02 9630 4116 or janet.stevic@det.nsw.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

V. Vasilou
Principal

Closing Date for the return of application forms - Wednesday 4th March 2015.

Please use this information sheet for your parent bulletin.

Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School

Asquith Girls High School

Year 5 & 6 students and parents Invited to our OPEN NIGHT

Monday 2nd March 2015

School Hall, 332a Angove St
9:30am - 9:50am
6pm - 8pm School Information and Tour

2016 Enrichment Class Examination

Saturday 7th March 2015

Visit our website to download an application

www.asquithgh.schoools.nsw.edu.au

Asquith Boys High School

Open Night Tuesday 3 March 2015

8.15pm for a 8.30pm start in the hall

or via the school or faculty displays.

- Outstanding 2014 HSC results
- Unique Music, Performing & Visual Arts Scholarships for Years 7, 9 & 11
- Senior Academic Scholarships Years 11 & 12
- A fully integrated cross curricular Literacy and Numeracy Program, Years 7-10
- Opportunities for gifted and talented students with an academic enrichment class for Years 7 & 8
- International Soccer Tour & Language Tour

Closing Date for the return of application forms - Wednesday 4th March 2015.

Please use this information sheet for your parent bulletin.

Asquith Girls High School

An invitation to visit Epping Boys High School

Information Afternoon Thursday 26 February 2015

4 - 7 pm

Parents and Students Year 7 2016 and 2017

Parents and guardians of boys currently enrolled in Years 5 and 6 are warmly invited to attend the school’s Information Afternoon in the Edmund Barton Examination Centre.

Epping Boys High School has an outstanding tradition of academic, cultural and sporting achievement.

4.00pm - 5.00pm
- Principal and Deputy Principal presentations
- Boys to Men Program
- Student presentation
- Musical Items
- Question and answer session with senior staff
- Meet your school personnel

5.00pm - 6.00pm
- Tours of the school

6.00 - 7.00pm Gifted and Talented Program 2016
- Presentation in the School Common Room to interested parents

For further information about our school and achievements, please check our website: http://www.eppingboys.hs.nsw.edu.au
Email: info@eppingboys.hs.nsw.edu.au
Address: 213 Vimiera Rd, Eastwood, NSW, 2122
Enrolment inquiries for 2015 are invited to the Enrolment Officer on 9888 2701.

Year 7 Massed Choir
Giant Book Sale

COME ALONG AND JOIN US
Fri 27th March - 9am-8pm
Sat 28th March - 9am-3pm
Uniting Church
134 New Line Road
Cherrybrook

We are looking for donations of books in good condition, original CDs & DVD’s, records, sheet music.

Donations accepted until 24 March

We really appreciate all the support that you give us with these donations. Thank you.

Please note we are not able to accept textbooks,encyclopedias, damaged or dirty books, magazines, coffee table books, Readers Digest, computer manuals.

RING OUR HOTLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FOR DETAILS OF A CONVENIENT DROP OFF LOCATION

0468 330 667

www.wphcrotary.org - email: wphc.rotary@gmail.com

Hornsby Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS)

Parenting Anxious Children
SEMINAR FOR PARENTS - TERM 1, 2015

A seminar for parents of children aged 4-10 yrs discussing:

The nature of anxiety and the different ways it may present in children, risk factors and potential implications for parents and children, as well as identification of practical strategies & resources to assist.

Thursday
5 March
Time:
10am-12pm

- The seminar will be facilitated by CYMHS staff (which includes Psychologists, Social Workers & family therapists).
- The seminar will be run at Hillview Community Health Centre 1334 Pacific Highway Turramurra. Entry via Boyd Ave. Please allow enough time for parking and arrive 10 minutes before the registered start time. Unfortunately, we cannot provide childcare facilities and are unable to have infants attend with their parents.
- The seminar is available to families who live in the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai local government area.
- The cost of the seminar is $10 but there will be no charge for concession card holders.
- Registration is essential as groups fill quickly.
- To confirm your place please call CYMHS on 9485 6155.
- Participants will be asked to complete feedback forms.
- The service reserves the right to postpone or cancel seminars in the case of insufficient registrations.
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Gives students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team:
T 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
T 9244 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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