

Attendance **Matters**



SAFETY BAY
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

imagine believe achieve

Why Attendance Matters

It is a legal requirement for your child to attend school. The School Education Act 1999 requires that parents/carers ensure their children attend the school in which they are enrolled each day that the school is open unless there is good reason for them not to attend.

Going to school every day is vitally important so your child does not miss out on important ideas, concepts, knowledge and skills for future learning. At Safety Bay Senior High School, we want your child to do their very best. To get the best education, they need to be at school every day. By working together, our school community can support your child's attendance.

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.**

How to Assist Your Child

- Act early. It's important to understand and work on the underlying reasons why your child is not going to school
- On average, teenagers need eight to nine hours sleep a night to be healthy and alert. Maintaining a daily routine helps. This may include monitoring internet, gaming and social media usage and mobile phone and television access at night to ensure sleep is not disturbed
- Try not to make appointments or take holidays during school time. This can make it difficult to catch up on missed school work and cause anxiety about attending school
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are genuinely unwell
- Don't let your child stay home to finish an assignment that is due
- Teach your child that attending to commitments is important

Make attendance the number one priority.

Acceptable Reasons for Not Attending

An acceptable reason could include:

- Being unwell
- Attending cultural or religious observances such as sorry time and funerals
- An unavoidable medical appointment

The Principal decides if the reason given for your child's absence is acceptable, which may include requiring a medical certificate for prolonged absences.

Attendance Matters, Make Every Day Count.

Will your child be away? Let Student Services know as soon as possible.

PHONE 9528 9200, select Option 1 • **SMS** 0407 472 038

EMAIL safetybay.shs.attendance@education.wa.edu.au

WEB safetybay.wa.edu.au/contact/ • **AFTER HOURS** 9528 9218, leave voicemail

Unacceptable Reasons for Not Attending

- Celebrating a birthday
- Going on a family holiday
- Visiting family and friends
- Sleeping in
- Looking after other children
- Sport or other recreational activities that have not been approved by the school
- Non essential appointments

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

If your child misses
1 day per fortnight

that equals

20 days per year

which is

4 weeks per year

Over 13 years of schooling
that is nearly

1.5 years

**Ask school staff for help if you are
struggling to get your child to school.**



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