

# NEWSLETTER



THE RIVERS  
SECONDARY COLLEGE  
KADINA HIGH CAMPUS

*The heart of secondary education for Lismore*

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ISSUE 3 | TERM 3 | WEEK 10 | 2023

You did it!  
*Congratulations*



## Principal Message

It has been another fantastic term here at the Kadina High Campus where we have continued to focus on student excellence. I hope you enjoy reading about our latest events, achievements and initiatives that showcase what **Kadina Creates**.

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who will complete their schooling this week. After the holidays, they begin their final examinations – the last hurdle in 13 years of education. This is no easy feat for anyone and I hope all of our students, parents and carers are proud of what they have achieved in partnership with our school. As exams approach, it is important that students balance study with their own wellbeing and ensure they look after themselves. Students are encouraged to continue to reach out for support from our school staff if they need it. I look forward to celebrating their success at the formal in November.

Thank you to all our parents and carers that joined us for our Term 3 Kadina Creates Assemblies. These have been a fantastic addition to our term calendars and are a great opportunity for us to celebrate some of our school priorities; excellence and attendance. It was great to see so many students being awarded for 90%+ attendance and for being our top Respect, Ready, Responsible point scorers. While these students received vouchers and certificates, the greatest prize is how this translates to outstanding outcomes in their learning. I was also very excited to present certificates of attainment to many of our Stage 5 students who have qualified as Baristas and completed a Food Hygiene course. This certification process is part of our commitment to ensuring that all students complete Year 10 with additional qualifications.

Earlier this term, we honoured students, staff and community members at the Lismore Network Public Education Awards. We have included their photos and citations within this newsletter to showcase their outstanding contributions to our school. Our College Deputy Principal, Ms Zoe Tiernan, was also honoured with a Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching Award at the Public Education Awards held in Town Hall, Sydney. Zoe is an incredible leader and educator and it was great to see her recognized amongst an elite group of educators on a statewide level.

There have been numerous excursions this term and these have been a great opportunity for students to engage in their learning in new and exciting ways. Our combined Ski Camp with Lismore High Campus was a huge success and the students were fortunate enough to get enough snow to have a great time. Thank you to the attending staff who gave their time and energy to supporting this important excursion.

Last week, I was pleased to announce our 2024 School Captains and Vice Captains. Congratulations to Riley, Chloe, Gwen and Sarah. I have no doubt that they will do an excellent job in representing our campus with pride. I encourage all students to consider nominating for the Student Representative Council when this process begins next term as this is a great way to advocate for your peers and school.

As we move into next term, we start the events that celebrate 2023 and begin preparing for 2024. With examinations and assessments starting, it is important that students stay on top of their classwork and assessment tasks. Utilising the junior Assessment Hub is a great way to ensure students are well

*Welcome to*  
**KADINA HIGH CAMPUS**  
THE RIVERS SECONDARY COLLEGE



prepared. With our Semester 2 Reporting period about to begin, I challenge students to see each lesson and learning task as an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. We look forward to sharing these reports with you at the end of Term 4.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I hope that you all have a restful break. Please remember there is no Staff Development Day at the beginning of Term 4. All students return **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October**.

**James Witchard**

**Principal**



L-R: James Witchard (Principal), Gwen, Riley, Chloe, Sarah

## Kadina High welcomes a new baby calf

Kadina High Campus has welcomed the first of two pure bred Angus calves this week. The little bull calf was born early Thursday 21 September and is already in very good hands. He will be well looked after in the Term 3 holidays, where he will be monitored to ensure he is healthy and growing well.





## CALENDAR

22 September  
**Last day of Term 3**

9 October  
**First day of Term 4**

Please remember to check our Sentral parent portal calendar for up-to-date information and important events.



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[facebook.com/OfficialKadinaHighSchool](https://facebook.com/OfficialKadinaHighSchool)

[Instagram.com/kadinahighcampus](https://Instagram.com/kadinahighcampus)

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Elders past and present of the Wijabul Wiyabal people and other peoples of Bundjalung Nation. We acknowledge that they are the first peoples of this land on which our school stands.

## Attendance Matters Prize Winner

Bodina Exton-Roberts is the lucky winner of our term 3 laptop giveaway. Bodina is a year 8 student with brilliant attendance and is a deserving winner. We hope you enjoy your new laptop Bodina!

Congratulations to all students who have worked hard to improve their attendance this term. Another laptop will be given away in Term 4, so keep aiming for 90%+



### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Students with greater than 90% attendance will be placed into a draw each term to win a laptop!**



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# Kadina Creates Term 3 Assemblies

Congratulations to our student award winners in our Kadina Creates Stage 4 & 5 Assemblies in term 3. It was terrific to hand out so many prizes and certificates recognising outstanding attendance and behaviour. Special thanks to our parents/carers and guests who joined in celebrating what Kadina creates.





## Public Education Awards 2023

Congratulations to the staff and students who have been awarded at this years Lismore Network Public Education Awards. It was wonderful to showcase their outstanding contributions to the Kadina High Campus.



Keiren Kelly is a proud Kadina High student who holds the values Respect, Responsible and Ready at the for front of all that he does.

Keiren wears his uniform with pride. His attendance has increased dramatically through out his time at Kadina, rarely missing a day. This has seen Keiren perform with the school band, run assemblies, open community events doing the acknowledgment of country, being part of the Widgabul-Wyabul Leadership program and speak on behalf of his peers and school at various events around the area.

Keiren is a role model to his peers, and through his high expectations has made solid friendships and earnt respect from both students, staff and the wider community.



Linh is an outstanding student and school captain at The Rivers Secondary College, Kadina High Campus. She represents her school with pride and has played an important role in representing the views of her peers in advocating for school improvements. Linh has also done an excellent job in representing our school on numerous occasions, engaging with a range of stakeholders and senior officials of the Department of Education, sharing her passion and knowledge of her school and community. Linh is a dedicated learner who is committed to achieving her personal best in everything she tries.



Belinda Ryan goes above and beyond to ensure students have every opportunity to succeed. Her work with NESA enrolments, VET, TAS and as relieving Deputy Principal has highlighted her high levels of motivation work ethic and attention to detail. Because of Belinda, students at Kadina High Campus have had school, work, community and post school opportunities they wouldn't have otherwise had. Nothing is too much for Belinda. She makes time for everyone. Her ability to support staff as a HT and as Relieving DP means staff feel seen and supported. By building staff capacity, she is also increasing the learning environment and opportunities for the Kadina community.



Josh is an outstanding educator and passionate promoter of school sport. Josh has played a pivotal role in developing a sustainable sporting culture for our school, capitalising on our strong history, while also creating new opportunities for our students. He puts students at the center of all decisions and is looked to as an example good sports leadership by his colleagues at the Kadina High Campus and the broader college. Josh is an invaluable member of our team and a great advocate for public education and our school.



Kimm is an outstanding member of our administrative team. With a strong knowledge of the history of our school, she goes above and beyond to support the Principal and leadership of the school to maximise the outcomes for our students. Kimm not only supports the needs of the Kadina High Campus, but also plays a pivotal role in managing the finances of the wider Rivers Secondary College. Her expert knowledge of finance systems and administrative processes makes her a mentor and exemplar to her colleagues of good practice. Kimm is passionate about our school and our students, ensuring equity and excellence can be achieved by everyone.



Sienna is an unwaveringly motivated student whose academic and athletic achievements are highly commendable. Excelling since year 7 at Kadina, she has consistently represented Northern Rivers Zone, North Coast, NSWCHS, and Nationals in various sports. Sienna's leadership as vice captain showcases her dedication to Kadina High Campus, where she embodies pride and excellence. A true role model, her exceptional ability to balance sports, academics, and leadership highlights her as a standout achiever, setting a remarkable example for her peers.





Rose Walker is an exuberant and honest women who has contributed significantly to Kadina High Campus, especially our Aboriginal student and parent community. Her willingness to share her knowledge and experience ensuring Kadina is a better place for its students and parents. Recently joining the P&C she allowed us as a school to move forward in a positive and community-informed way. She also played an active role at our recent NAIDOC events, sharing her stories and histories to better educate and empower our students. Rose also supports other parents and families at Kadina through her kindness and experience. This is appreciated and valued.



Niki is a very important part of the Kadina High community. As our current P&C president, she is a loyal advocate for our school, sharing her passion for the Kadina High Campus and public education with everyone she meets. Niki has been instrumental in leading our P&C in dedicating a range of funds to help improve our school resources. This has resulted in some exceptional new facilities, like our recent projector installation, demonstrating Niki's belief in empowering our students to achieve their best. We are very grateful for Niki's ongoing support of our school.



As the College Deputy Principal of The Rivers Secondary College and instructional leader, Zoe Tiernan has led professional learning for College teachers to improve classroom instructional practice. She has provided support for beginning and early career teachers to achieve accreditation and facilitated student and staff voice to inform College decision making. Zoe engages local community agencies and identities to support improved learning outcomes for students and has supported cultural awareness and humility for Aboriginal students. She epitomises the values of The Rivers Secondary College - Equity, Excellence and Engagement.



## Olympics unleashed program

This term the Olympics Unleashed program visited Kadina High Campus with a fantastic interactive motivational presentation from former Australian Olympian Brooke Hanson. Brooke shared her inspiring story with our Year 9 and 10 students in the hopes of encouraging our students to reach their personal best across all areas of their lives.





## The Body Mantra - Year 7 & 8 Girls

Year 7 and 8 KHC Girls have been lucky enough to embark on a 6 week program with The Body Mantra Project.

The project supports girls in learning to respond, rather than react. Embrace their emotions and feelings, appreciate themselves and solidify core values through meditation, yoga, sound therapy and discussion in small group sessions. We are so lucky to have this opportunity and look forward to the journey this takes us on.



## Education Week 2023 Morning Tea

Special thanks to all our guests for attending our Community Morning Tea to celebrate Public Education Week. It was wonderful to showcase the history of public education and the Kadina High Campus. A series of items from our archives were displayed, along with current student work.

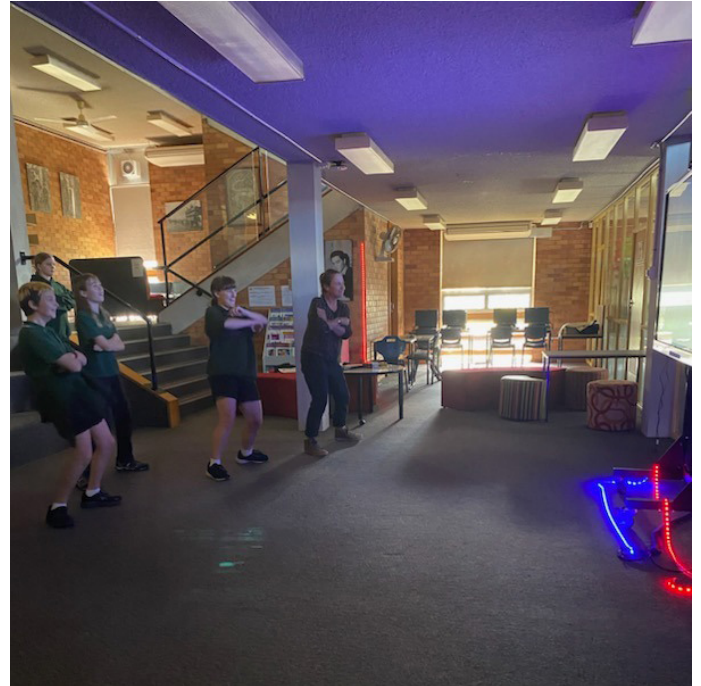




# Fun in the Library

## Dance Off - Fridays in the Library

Every Friday at lunch time students have the opportunity to join in on our Friday Dance Off. It's a wonderful and healthy way to spend your lunchtime with friends. Friday Dance Off will continue in Term 4.



## Lego Masters - Wednesdays in the Library

Come join in the fun every Wednesday lunch in the library. There are weekly challenges, prizes and fun to be had by all.





## SASS Recognition Week

This term, Kadina celebrated and recognised SASS Recognition Week for all our SASS and non-teaching support staff. Kadina welcomed staff from across the college to a morning BBQ breakfast at our new Support Hub facilities, cooked by the college principals.

SASS staff are an incredibly valuable part of our schools, supporting staff, students and community.



Want more? check us out on Socials!



/OfficialKadinaHighSchool/



# Rivers Sport

## Open Girls Netball team

Congratulations to the Open Girls Netball team who placed 14th overall in the NSWCHSSA State Titles. The girls played with great sportsmanship and did The Rivers Secondary College proud. Stand out players from the tournament were Natalia (RRHC), Tegan (LHC) and Abbie (KHC). Well done girls.



## Open Boys Baseball and Softball team

TRSC Open Boys Baseball and Softball team have started the knockout competition with convincing wins against Kyogle High this term, which has gained them the title of North Coast Champions in both sports.





## Futsal Gala Days U14s and U16s

This term, students participated in the Futsal Gala Days at GSAC. The U14s boys kicked off the day with a 5 nil win against Lismore. They unfortunately lost 4-3 later in the day to Richmond River in a heated game, this knocked them out of the competition. Also this term the U16s girls played their first game against Woodenbong and secured a 1 nil win, however were later knocked out of the comp to a loss against Evans Head. The U16s boys had a successful day, winning their first 3 games. They made it to the grand final but were defeated against a strong Alstonville side. It was a great effort from all students involved.



## Open Boys Basketball team

Congratulations to the junior boys who took out this year's title as the 3v3 champions. They went undefeated through the tournament and closed it out with a dominant performance in the final, getting to 21 points within the first 10 minutes.

The Opens Boys unfortunately did not progress to the final, but did have a win in the early rounds and only went down narrowly to the eventual champs (Lismore High Campus).





## Relieving Deputy Secretary visit

This term, we hosted Relieving Deputy Secretary of the NSW Department of Education, Mark Barraket. The Deputy Secretary toured our new Support Hub facilities and enjoyed a beautiful lunch catered by our Support Hub students as part of their 'Paddock to Plate' units of work. It was also a great opportunity for him to view some of our recent NAIDOC artworks completed as part of the Goonellabah District Education Office competition. Thank you Mr Barraket for visiting and allowing us to showcase what Kadina Creates!





## Japanese student visit

This term, our school was very lucky to host five Japanese students and their teacher from a high school in Lismore's sister city, Yamato Takada. It was lovely to see our students interacting with the Japanese through a variety of lessons. In Agriculture they learnt how honey is produced, tasted our school produced honey, washed a cow and were taught how to lead the cows around the paddock. From there, students were taught by year 12 Hospitality how to cook anzac biscuits. The students thought they were extremely delicious! A highlight with most of the group was the PDHPE lesson where they were taught to play cricket. A lot of laughter and fun interaction was heard around the school during this time. At lunchtime, the Japanese group were entertained by some of our very talented music students with a mini concert. After lunch, a year 7 Japanese class listened to stories about Yamato Takada and interacted in a Q and A session in Japanese and English. To end the day students participated in an amazing art lesson where they glazed Australian animals onto individual tiles. It was an amazing and memorable day where our students used some of their Japanese language skills and gave the Japanese students an idea of high school life in Australia. Thank you to all staff and students who were involved in this special day in building our international relations.





# Excursions

## Combined Yr 10 LHC and KHC Ski trip 2023

As the icy blizzard sweeps across the high country, a blurred shape emerges through the snow. Labouring against the wind, focusing on each movement of their skis, a group of Kadina students traverse their way safely and carefully through the snow; only 6 days after their first ever experience on skis, the Kadina High Campus Snow Trip students are passing their alpine test with flying colours! Under the helmet and goggles an icicle covered face looks up at me and asks 'Do we have to go?'

The epic journey started a week earlier when students and staff met at the Kadina bus stop along with our soon to be new friends from Lismore High Campus. We numbered off and tried to make ourselves comfortable for the 15 hour bus ride to Ngarigo country, Lake Jindabyne.

Minimal sleep and many hours later, we arrived at Bullocks Flat to collect our rental gear and ski pass, label our boards and boots and board the train for Perisher valley.

What followed was a week of fun, warm, sunny and slushy conditions, sliding around the mountain with our instructors, teachers and fellow students. We learned to ride chairlifts, turn, traverse, carve, feather and fall our way safely down the mountain, helping each other out and learning all the way. There were triumphs and there were injuries, but a genuine spirit of resilience and perseverance made us all proud of this amazing group of students.

Each day we returned exhausted and elated to the lovely Sierra Vista lodge, first unpacking 51 pairs of smelly boots from the bus to the drying room then shower, get ready for an enormous feed at the accommodation and prepare for the nightly games of Uno, Spot-it and pool. It was lights out by 10pm and not a soul stirring until the 6am call of duty, as Mr Wallace roused the troops for another day on the mountain.

All good things come to an end, and as the blizzard set in on the final day we all reflected on what an amazing learning experience the week had been; exploring new country, new skills and new friendships. We just had to survive the 15 hour drive home, made even more challenging by the accumulation of wet ski socks stashed under the seats.

Well done year 10!

Mr Flanagan





## Geography Excursion

On Thursday 24th August, year 10 Geography students participated in an excursion to Byron Bay. Students studied coastal processes and observed the forces of erosion operating within the coastal zone, before conducting a retail analysis of the CBD and a tourism impact survey. After lunch, students enjoyed a presentation by Chloe Dowsett, the Coasts and Biodiversity Coordinator for Byron Shire Council.



## Peer Support Leadership

A group of committed Year 10 Kadina students took on the challenge of Peer Support Leadership training late this term. The training has developed the confidence within our students to step up and become leaders in our school. Our Peer Support leaders will play an important role in supporting our new students in 2024 and assisting them to build positive connections while at high school.

Mrs Rasborsek and Ms Florey - Peer Support Coordinators





## Textiles Excursion

Year 11 Textiles students visited Brisbane earlier this term to engage in an eco dying and printing workshop. Students also visited the Queensland Art Gallery and GOMA, to see exhibitions by Zavros and Medici, followed by a dinner in Queen Street before heading home. Students had such a wonderful day.



## Byron Writers Festival

This term, students from the Kadina High Campus attended the Byron Writers Festival. It was a great day out where students had the opportunity to meet and listen to a number of award-winning Australian authors. Year 7 have been studying Solli and his work and were lucky enough to see Solli perform his slam poetry live for the audience.







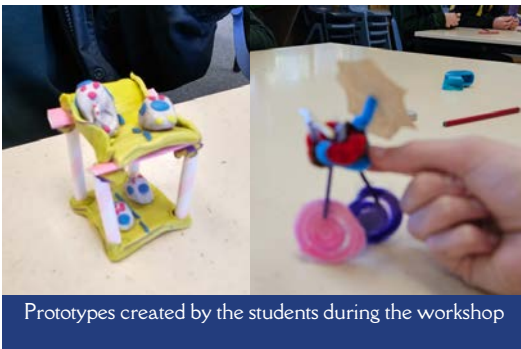
## Young Change Agents

### Transforming Transport

Students from Years 7 - 10 participated in a full-day workshop facilitated by the Young Change Agents to use Design Thinking to identify an aspect of the transport industry that needs improving, brainstorm solutions, and use entrepreneurial thinking to develop a social enterprise to implement their solution. During this process, they worked closely with mentors from Southern Cross University. Some of the ideas included lowering the cost of public transport, more rural transport options, and reducing the environmental impact of road construction



The Skittles with their idea of multi-storey roads to reduce deforestation were chosen to progress to the next level



Prototypes created by the students during the workshop



Planning is one of the most important steps in the STEM Design Thinking Process

## YINC

Two teams from the Transport Transport workshop were selected to attend a two-day Youth Incubator (YINC) at SCU. Over these two days, they further developed their social enterprise by undertaking a range of workshops in branding, marketing, prototyping, working with mentors, and networking. One group worked on multi-level roads to reduce deforestation, while the other group worked on developing a social-arts cafe that supports local artists while fundraising to improve local road infrastructure.



Above: students having an online meeting with their industry mentor  
Right: Students investigating how to develop a brand that represents a personality.  
Below: Identifying the customer's needs







## Solar RASE

Over 100 primary school and high school students came together at Kadina High for our inaugural Solar RASE finale. This was the culmination for a term's hard work for many of our students. In the lead up to this event students studied sustainable energy sources, electric circuits, engineering....and of course how to use prototyping and testing to get their very best solution.



Bexhill Public students competing in their school competition to determine the best cars to compete in the finale

The day was made possible by the support of staff and students at Kadina High. The PE staff put their skills to use to develop the draws for the high school and primary school events, while the Year 9 Physical Activity Sports Studies students were our official starters and recorders



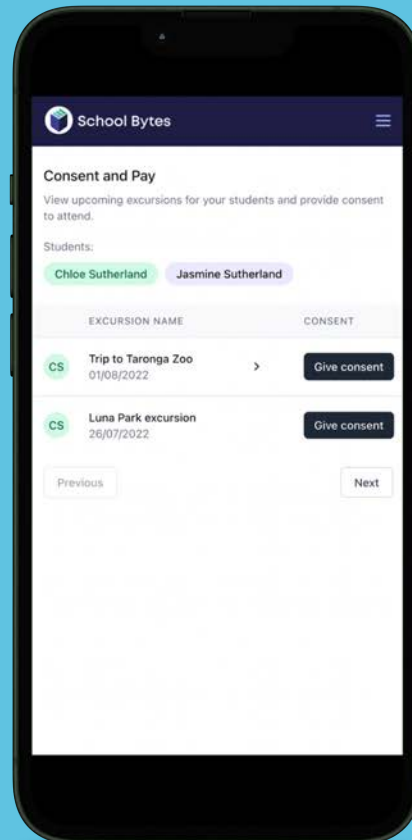
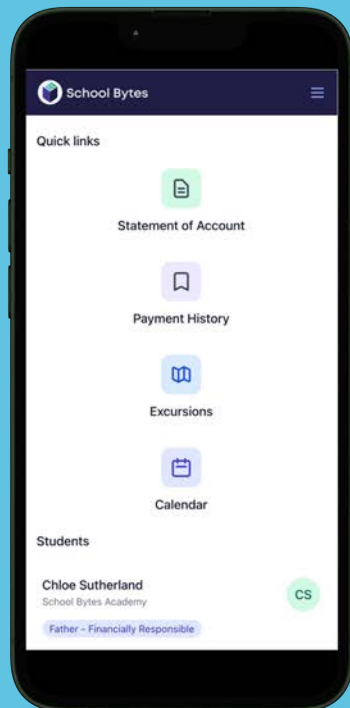
For the finale, high school students competed in pursuit races on an oval track, while primary school students competed in sprint races down a 20-metre track. What a day! Bexhill took out the honours in the primary school competition by a mere 2cm, while Kadina High had a strong win in the high school competition. Competition was fierce, but students cheered each other on and showed a lot of resilience. It became evident to all participants how important it is to have a well-engineered car that takes all design aspects into consideration.





# AVAILABLE NOW!

We are excited to announce our school will be transitioning to a more flexible and simplified way parent/carers can make payments



## The Parent Portal

- Easily make a payment online
- Download your receipt
- Sign and return permission notes digitally
- Use any credits on your account to make payment
- View your complete payment history
- Request a refund



School Bytes

AVAILABLE DURING

# TERM 3

Register for the Parent Portal via the QR Code or visit

<https://portal.schoolbytes.education>





## College NAIDOC Celebration Term 2

Thank you to our broader school community for your support as we came together for our second combined NAIDOC event last term - jingiwallah ngulliboo. It was a fantastic day that saw all three campuses of The Rivers Secondary College working together to celebrate this year's theme 'For Our Elders'

Our day featured many activities including a performance by our new college Aboriginal Dance Group who were amazing and the hotly contested NAIDOC cup! Thank you to our community elders and local organisations for your support, guidance and teaching.

A video compilation from the day can be viewed on the College Facebook or by [clicking here](#).











# 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 of 17 years. 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 NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

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
- Give 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 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 NSW Department of Education 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.



# Days missed = years lost


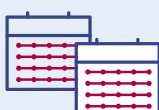
A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight  
 = **4** weeks  
 = Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week  
 = **8** weeks  
 = Over **2.5** years missed

## More information

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

### Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

### The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

### 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.

