



SADDLEWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Respect, Kindness, Achievement

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the starting times at Saddleworth Primary School?

Students are expected to arrive between 8:30 and 8:45am. Class commences at 8:55am and students are deemed to be late if they arrive after this time.

Can my child arrive before 8:30am?

We do not wish to curb children's enthusiasm about attending school, however playground supervision commences at 8:30am.

Does my child need to attend school every day?

Students must attend school on every school day. This is necessary if they are to cover all the work set out in the school program for the year. Schools are required to advise the Department Attendance Officers if student's absences exceed 10 days (particularly unexplained) in order to follow up what is considered to be 'excessive' absences and 'persistent' lateness.

What if my child is ill?

Students who are obviously ill, need to be home resting and most likely in bed. They may even need to visit the doctor. Remember, however, each day a child misses school they miss part of their learning program. Parents/Caregivers are asked to contact the school and give a reason for the child's absence, preferably on the morning of the absence.

What if my child arrives late in the morning?

If your child arrives before 8:55am they can go straight to the classroom. Lateness is viewed as a serious matter and is recorded in the Roll Book by the teacher – including the arrival time. **If your child arrives later than 8:55am, they must report to the Front Office and be signed-in by the parent or caregiver at that time.** There is a 'sign-in book' located on the front counter in the office. Being late or absent from school impacts on your child's learning, their routine organisation and their relationships with others.

If we consider a child's schooling from Reception through to Year 10, we can see the impact through these statistics:

- **5 days away a term** adds up to more than a year of schooling missed. That's 220 days over this period of schooling.
- **1 day per week** away adds up to 2 years and 1 term or 451 days over this period.
- **Half an hour late per day** equates to more than 1 year away from school.

What if my child becomes ill at school, will I be informed?

Yes, and if an accident or illness is potentially worrying or serious, this will be done as soon as possible. For this reason, it is critical that the school is provided with up-to-date and reliable contact numbers for home and work and names and numbers for emergency contacts if the parent/caregiver is not able to be contacted.

What if my child has an appointment (medical, dental, other important appointments)?

Where possible, appointments outside of school hours are preferable. If the appointment is within school hours, a written note or form of communication (SMS, schoolstream, attendance slip) from the parent/caregiver should be given to the teacher or Front Office staff advising of the appointment.

What does the law say about attending school?

In South Australia it is compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 16 to attend school. Parents or guardians are responsible for making sure the child attends. Parents or guardians can be taken to court and fined if they are persistently and knowingly not sending a child to school. Once a child is enrolled at school, even if it is prior to their sixth birthday, the child must attend school regularly