

## Information for parents – The impact of holidays during school time

---

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.

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.

Schools can record absences due to holidays using the 'K – unauthorised vacation' or 'V – authorised vacation' lesson attendance codes. The principal has the authority to determine which code is most applicable for each circumstance.

The purpose of these codes is for schools to be able to disaggregate their attendance data to determine common reasons for absence. The system reports on absences due to holidays as a combined figure using both codes.

The School Education Act of 1999 requires compulsory aged students to attend school on a regular basis. If a student is absent for 10 or more half days per term, we are required under the Act to communicate with parents/caregivers. Please note even if you have provided an explanation for your child's absence, you will still receive a letter of concern regarding their attendance if they have had ten or more half days absent.

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.