

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Mythbusters



Missing a week of school each term won't make much difference.

Learners who miss a week of school each term will have missed a year of schooling by the time they are 16.

There's not enough time to get stuff done outside of school hours.

There are 175 non-school days each year. That's plenty of time to go on visits, take holidays and attend appointments.

Regular attendance means you are at school at least half the time.

No. The Ministry of Education defines regular attendance as when a student attends more than 90% of class time or misses no more than one day each fortnight.

It's okay to regularly miss days at primary school because it's high school that matters most.

Research shows that poor attendance in primary school is linked with poor attendance at secondary school. Primary school is where students' educational foundations are laid and influences everything that happens later in a child's schooling. For this reason, regular attendance at primary school is essential.

It's okay if I take my child out of school for holiday because they can catch up when they get back to school.

An Education Review Office report found that even missing just two days a term is linked to lower achievement.

It's okay for my child to attend tutoring outside of school during school time because tutoring is good for them.

While school-based tutoring is a justified absence, tutoring outside of school is considered an unjustified absence in a child's student record.

HAVING TROUBLE GETTING YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL?

THERE'S HELP

Contact your child's school.

Let them know what is going on for your child.

Work with your child's school.

Come up with a plan to support your child.

Talk to your child about how much you value school.

Your view of school influences how your child feels about school.

Seek professional help.

If you are concerned about your child's mental health and wellbeing, call Lifeline: 0800 543 354 or make an appointment to see your child's GP.

