

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Signs a child might be losing interest in school

When students are engaged in their education, they are curious and interested in what they are learning, feel a sense of belonging at school, and have good relationships with their teachers and other children at school.



SIGNS A STUDENT MIGHT BE DISENGAGING

- shows **little interest** in school and talk about wanting to leave
- **misses a lot of school** or **refuses** to go altogether
- has ongoing **difficulty with reading, writing or maths**
- has **negative interactions** with other children
- shows a significant **change in behaviour, attitude or performance** at school.
- exhibits behaviour that is **aggressive, violent or socially withdrawn**.

WHY A STUDENT MIGHT DISENGAGE FROM SCHOOL

- is experiencing **stress** at home, at school or with friendships
- is feeling **unsafe** and/or **not accepted** in the classroom or school
- is feeling **discomfort** due to tiredness, hunger, heat, cold, or feeling unwell
- has an undiagnosed **learning problem** or condition
- is **struggling to establish positive relationships** with teachers and other children
- is feeling **uninterested** in the content being taught
- is gifted and **feels bored** or is hiding their abilities so they can fit in.

HOW SCHOOLS CAN HELP

- **teaching in flexible ways** to respond to the different ways children learn
- implementing **flexible learning arrangements** and **individual learning plans** for students who need additional support with their learning
- connecting students with **support staff like teacher aides** and allied health professionals (such as speech and occupational therapists)
- referring children to the **school guidance counsellor**
- giving **cultural support** to children to increase their cultural safety and engagement.

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.

