Principal’s Message

Attendance and lateness

I seek the support of the families of all of our boys when I discuss a few important aspects of school life at Birrong Boys High School. The first one is in regards to school attendance. I have attached the official ‘Compulsory School Attendance’ Information for Parents to this newsletter. This brochure contains specific information about the 1990 Education Act which states that school attendance is compulsory every day between the ages of 6 and 17 unless a child is sick, it goes on to stress the importance of students arriving on time to school and to class as well as steps that should be taken by parents to explain any absences. The Department of Education has also published a similar brochure for School Principals, in this brochure it goes further to describe the support a school can provide to families in the area of attendance. The document, ‘Guidelines for supporting school attendance’ outlines the legal responsibility of parents for ensuring regular attendance at school. More importantly, this document points out the attendance is fundamental to student learning, that regular attendees are more likely to achieve success, increase career options whereas poor attendance patterns add to the risk of psychological problems, general safety and wellbeing.

We are making every effort to increase overall attendance rates, please work with us to ensure that your son is at school each day, you should receive a phone call to inform you of any absences, and we want your boy at school on time every day.

Repeated lateness to school will result in detention.

Truancy will result in detention. Should your son leave the school premises without permission from yourselves AND the school, an afternoon detention may be issued, you will be provided with at least 24 hours’ notice of an afternoon detention, as of week 1 Term 3 afternoon detentions will take place only on Tuesday.

School Uniform

School uniform is compulsory at Birrong Boys High School. Our community expects that our students present themselves with pride, respect and dignity. I ask parents to support us in this endeavour. I would like, and expect, each boy to arrive at school in full school uniform. We stock most items in our uniform shop although we do not have pants or shoes. Black pants and black leather shoes are expected to be worn. It has been refreshing, of late, to see so many boys choose to wear the school tie. While we shouldn’t judge a book by its cover, we all know that our boys
are being compared to the boys who attend our neighbouring private schools, whilst these people aren’t able to make judgements based on quality of character; they are quick to make judgements based on appearance.

Again, I ask for parent support in ensuring that your son comes to school in full school uniform.

Any boy who is repeatedly out of uniform will be placed on a detention.

**Principals Conference**

During Week 8 of Term 2 I attended the annual NSW Secondary Principals Council Conference. I’d like to share some of the things I learned.

International Speaker Ngahihi o t era Bidois spoke at length about our most important resource in any organisation, its people. He spoke further about the importance of our people reaching their potential in that it is most fulfilling for the individual and beneficial for the organisation. I’ll try to quote him but I may be a little different, ‘whilst an eagle is capable of nesting on a rocky cliff, this is not what an eagle was built for, an eagle is meant to soar’.

Professor Yong Zhao of Oregon University spoke of the recent shift in educational thinking. Whereby, for some time, schools were focused on the external, measurable testing of SNAP and ELLA then NAPLAN and still the HSC and ATAR, we all realise that there is much more to education than these narrow measures. Many educators have long questioned the fact that we only measure certain variables in the knowledge that our boys have the capacity to succeed in so many others.

In years gone by Australia’s place in the academic pecking order has been challenged, people have raised the issue of us ranking way behind countries such as Singapore, China and Korea in numeracy scores. Professor Zhao was scornful of such jealousy quoting a similar sentiment from Singapore, China and Korea who rank way behind countries like Australia and the USA in the areas of creativity and entrepreneurialism.

He concluded by challenging our current way of thinking in terms of preparing our boys for the future when 70% of the jobs that our boys will be doing in 20 years haven’t yet been invented. He said that rather than seeking employment, our boys should be thinking about creating employment.

**Mr D Stevens**

Principal

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**Deputy Principal - Administration**

**Another Busy Term at BBHS**

Term 2 is always a busy term jam packed with assessments and reports. An extensive amount of work goes into compiling and producing reports to ensure students receive accurate feedback for improvement. It is important for students and their parents to make appointments and see teachers and seek feedback on where and how students can improve. Parents and students will have the opportunity to do so during our Parent/Teacher evening on Tuesday 21 July between 4 and 7 pm. Parents who wish to have interpreting services need to alert the school in advance to organise the service required.

**Students Embark on a Spiritual Journey**

The beginning of the holidays will mark the middle of the holy month of Ramadan. I would like to wish our students and their families a blessed and safe Ramadan. I would like to wish all of our students a safe and blessed holiday.
Shariq Waseem Receives Second Place At the Auburn Youth Awards

I had the pleasure of attending the Auburn Refugee Youth Awards on 13 June 2015 with our vice-captain Ibrahim Aslam and prefect Shariq Waseem. Shariq was nominated for academic achievement while Ibrahim was nominated for community leadership. Both boys were finalists in the selection process. Shariq was the recipient of the 2nd placement award and was selected from a group of over 50 boys. A recent arrival to Australia, Shariq has been here for less than 4 years. Throughout his schooling, Shariq has demonstrated commitment and dedication towards his studies resulting in him being dux of his year twice. Shariq aspires to be a dentist and is approaching his work with diligence and determination. Congratulations to Shariq and his family.

HSC Approaching Quickly

With the HSC not very far away, our Year 12 students continue to prepare and work hard towards achieving their goals whether at TAFE, university of the work force. Our Year 12 and 11 students enjoy school based HSC tutoring in all subjects available to them free of charge. I am impressed with out students and I would like to encourage them to continue to work as hard as they start their last school term next term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BBHS Upcoming Events to Remember</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 ends</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>26 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3 commences</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>14 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent/Teacher night</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>21 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>14 August</td>
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Ms H Ramadan
Deputy Principal Administration
Deputy Principal – Curriculum

Free Assistance
We have a Homework Centre operating at school on Mondays and Tuesday between 3.10 and 4.10 free to all students. Students at the Homework Centre can be assisted with studying, completing homework, assistance with assessments, assignments, they also have access to the internet and photocopying.

Our Welfare Policy and Procedures
We believe in developing an environment that focuses on positive relationships within a structured and responsive setting that both rewards and sanctions behaviours. Our welfare system involves a variety of measures designed to support students.

Unfortunately at times when students are not able to improve behaviour or act in unacceptable ways it is necessary to suspend them to allow time for reflection.

Suspension is not intended as a punishment, it is only one strategy for managing inappropriate behaviour within our school’s welfare policy. It is most effective when it highlights the parents’ responsibility for taking an active role, in partnership with the school, to modify the inappropriate behaviour of their child.

Semester One Reports
As this term draws to an end, and most students have completed their assessments, the Semester One report will be available early in Term 3 with Parent Teacher Night. Please ensure that you are able to attend this evening to discuss the progress of your son, more information will be provided at the beginning of Term 3.

Please assist us by following the guidelines below:
• Updating personal details, in particular home address and contact numbers.

Birrong Boys High School
• Making sure that your son arrives at school before 8.50am each morning
• Ensuring that your son is attending school with proper school uniform, this includes a white shirt, black jumper or jacket and black shoes.
• Send a note the next school day explaining student absences.
• If special appointments need to be made during school hours and an early leavers is required, send a note from home indicating the reason, date, time your son to leave, signature and please include a contact number.
• If your son brings a mobile phone to school, he needs to have the phone off at all times while in any building.
• If you have any concerns contact us to make an appointment. This may include talking to the classroom teacher, Head Teacher, Year Adviser, Counsellor, Deputy Principal and Principal, with notice interpreters can be arranged.

Student Attendance

Compulsory Schooling
Parents or carers of children of compulsory school age are responsible for ensuring their child attends school every day. Children must commence school by age 6 and then complete year 10.

After Year 10 and until they turn 17 students must be:
• in school, or registered for home schooling, or
• in approved education or training (eg TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship) or
• in full-time, paid employment (average 25 hours/week) or
• in a combination of work, education and/or training.
Student of the Month for May

Mohammad Al Helfy

School Holidays
This term ends on Friday 26 June and school will resume on Tuesday 14 July. Wishing all our school community a safe, enjoyable and healthy break. To those fasting in the Holy Month of Ramadan, and celebrating Eid my best wishes is extended to you and your family.

Mr M Derbas
Deputy Principal - Curriculum

Community Liaison Officer (CLO)

Let me start by congratulating those parents who have been regularly attending our parent meetings, your support is encouraging to the school and we hope to see more parents at our upcoming meetings which will be formalised as officially being named Birrong Boys High School Parent & Citizen Association.

Our next meeting is Friday 14 August 2015 at 9.30am in the school library. Thank you also to those parents who have been bringing some lovely morning tea. Your contribution is appreciated.

Athletics Carnival
I attended my first BBHS Athletics Carnival which was on Thursday 28 May. I was so proud to see so many students in the sporting spirit. I also was proud to see some of our mothers and fathers attending and supporting the event. I would like to acknowledge Mrs M ElKheir and Mrs J Saaddeddine for their support on the day as they assisted in cutting up orange wedges and serving our boys for that extra energy boost.
Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms M. Khodr for donating dozens of cupcakes to our schools Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser was held for students in our library on Friday 29 May. Our school’s Library department raised $200 for this special cause by selling cakes during lunch period.

Ramadan Greetings
I would like to extend my Ramadan Greetings to all students and families fasting the month of Ramadan.

May this month bring you and your families peace and joy.

Birrong Boys High School Parent & Citizen Association
After working closely with the P&C Federation, Birrong Boys has formally been registered and incorporated. I look forward to parents becoming formal members and encourage you to nominate yourself for any of the following six office bearer positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Vice Secretary
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer

I encourage all to get involved and contribute, please feel free to contact me on 9644 5200 ext 245 (Tuesday and Friday) or via email souhair.afiouny3@det.nsw.edu.au. I am here to support and encourage you and will be here every step of the way. I know taking on such roles might be overwhelming for some people, however, you will be surprised how much you may already know!

Birrong Boys High Mothers Café Club
Launched last month, although small I am proud of the progress the club is making. Already members contributed towards the athletics carnival and Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea. A special section in the library has been dedicated to the club with good coffee, magazines and opportunity for mothers to have a meet and greet. I look forward to meeting more mothers. Young children are welcome. Next Mothers Café Club is 14 August 2015 10.30am to 11.30am.

I feel privileged to be part of an amazing dynamic team here are the school. I’d like to thank our Principal, Mr Stevens, and our Deputies Ms Ramadan and Mr Derbas for continuously supporting all my initiatives.

Ms S Harris
Community Liaison Officer

English Faculty
Assessments and exams are currently taking place as we prepare to write Half Yearly reports. We look forward to seeing parents and caregivers at parent teacher evening which will be held early next term. If you would like any information on how your son is progressing before parent teacher night please contact me at the school.

We will soon announce the winners of the Year 8 Writing Competition. Thank you to all the students who entered this year and to Ms Tsanidis who ran the competition.
The annual Year 7 Spelling Bee is coming up. Final will be in late Term 3. Ms Tawadros is organising this year.

This is our third year of running this competition and it offers all of Year 7 students the opportunity to showcase their spelling skills. I look forward to the final.

I’d like to thank everyone who attended the English morning tea recently. Money was raised for Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea which Ms Tsanidis organised. I must acknowledge Errol Blas and Ahmed El-Cheikh from the SRC who assisted as well and, of course, the English faculty for putting on a massive morning tea for a worthy cause.

Ms G Tsopanos
Head Teacher English/ESL/Languages

Year 8 Creative Writing Samples

Year 8 have been studying a unit on Refugees. Here are some student’s samples of creative writing about the refugee experience:

REFUGEE
BOOM! BOOM!
That’s all I heard from across the street.
Young teenagers holding guns and bombs.
They were throwing bombs as fast as a cheetah.
People were screaming so loud.
I was trying my hardest so no one could see me and kidnap me.
I was so scared my heart was beating so fast that I could hear it.
My family was in danger and we needed to do something.

My father organised something so we can get out of our country.
We went by bus to Pakistan.
We also had to go by car and even walk.
I was so worried about my family and how we are going to live in our new country.
We then went by plane from Pakistan to Indonesia.

A few days later we arrived in a new country called Australia.
I was so excited it looked so clean and nice.
I felt good to be in a new country.
I saw big buildings and nice grass as green as an apple.

I miss my old country, the country I grew up in but I think that Australia is better.

Bilal Saadi 8.1

REFUGEE CAMP
I have been in this refugee camp for a year now and still cannot believe that I am still alive. I am here because of the war. It started when the new government came and the people went crazy and his orders were unfair.
We tried to leave the country and go to Australia but we were rejected.
It is only me, my mum and my sister. We had to leave my dad otherwise we would have been killed. I am feeling terrible as we do not get much care here. A lot of people have actually died because of starvation and disease. I hope my future will get brighter however, seeing people leave here and never return is not very hopeful.

I hope everyone could just live happily and survive this part of our journey.

Karl Mosmann 8.1

FREEDOM
Never will I forget this-
All I wanted
Just what I dreamed of
Everywhere I go,
Everywhere I look.
Best day of my life
Australia is freedom!

Haider Al Khazaaly 8.1

REFUGEES
There is a war going on in my country. It was so dangerous that we had to leave our home. I have not been able to get out of my country yet; I am still in a refugee camp with my family. It was a long trip to this refugee camp. It took us exactly four days.

It was not easy at all. There were people chasing us. My uncle did not make it. I was very sad when I heard this news, I will truly miss him.

Here at the refugee camp, I feel safe but scared at the same time. I hear people say that we are heading to Australia. I do not know anything about Australia but I hope it is a country of freedom. When we reach Australia I will study hard and save money for my parents. I love them so much. Now in the camp I can see a lot of other families like mine, they are in the same position. I wish them all good luck on their journey.

David Tran 8.1

Year 10 Portfolio Task – Student Samples

TEENAGERS OUT OF CONTROL
It was a Saturday night. I have been waiting for my son to come back from wherever he is. He didn’t come back until 12:00pm I was going to look for him until a police officer knocked on my door and I was shocked. My son came back from drinking. I took him inside and I asked, “Where were you all of this time?” He replied, “I don’t want to tell you where I was. It’s none of your business.”

Parents all over the world have wished for a magic solution to control the challenging behaviour of rebellious, defiant, teenagers at home. Even the strictest parents find their authority challenged despite having instilled values and family expectations in them from a very young age. They are often shocked to notice the sudden transformation in their children who have always displayed best behaviours.

Parents, the way to control the teenagers is to strike a balance. Some parents treat their children too kindly and sometimes they are too strict. If you are too strict they might rebel and sometimes do things behind your back when you are not there. A balanced approach is the way to fix the problem of teenagers.

Children 2-3 years old need attention from their parents. Right from their childhood parents have to teach them what is wrong or right, what they can do and what they cannot. Screaming won’t do anything because the more you scream the more the teenagers think that they can do whatever they want. A message to parents who are too strict is to adopt a friendly approach by getting to know them and at the same time to be not too lenient.

Parents think they are smart if they have lot of rules. I am not saying that you’re doing good or doing bad but be normal and have
nice responsible rules. One good fact is that when you can see your friends doing bad you can be heroes by adopting the right approach; not too strict and not too lenient.

When children grow up they will remember what great parents they have as they said ‘NO’ and ‘YES’. When they become parents they will do the same and it will keep going on and on.

We were all teenagers once but now we are adults. When we were teenagers we all had attitude and were rebellious. So keep calm and handle them with love and affection.

Ahmed Aouad 10Eng3

RECOUNT
One sunny morning my uncle and I went to the airport so we could head off to Mangere in New Zealand. As we arrived in New Zealand, my aunty was right there to pick us up and take us to Mangere so we could settle down. A few days passed by; it was Tuesday. The day we had to get ready for our Rugby game. Later that day my uncle and I came 1st in the Mangere cup. Once we finished playing we went back home to relax and talk about our big game.

As we were talking we kept on talking about my big tackles; the tackles that had put three players in hospital. I was proud because I saved the tries. After a long tiring day we packed our bags so my uncle and I could head off home. At the airport we came across Shaun Johnson. After talking to him, I hopped on the plane and found Shaun Johnson sitting right next to me. Shaun Johnson and I were talking and talking. My parents John and Jessica spoke about his aunty and uncle with the same names. Finally, uncle and I landed in Australia. We met my parents and introduced Shaun to them. After we all were speaking we came across Shaun’s parents and found out Shaun and I were cousins.

Alai Alai
10Eng 3

GHOST STORY
There’s this corridor in school. I heard rumours about it that it’s haunted and whoever goes in there never comes back alive. Well I didn’t believe it, but I kept hearing it a lot. One day I even asked a teacher if the rumour was true and she told me that once a new boy came to school and he didn’t know his classes very well so he went through that corridor and was never seen again.

I got goose bumps when I heard that. I got stressed to even stay at that school. Anyways days passed and one day my best friend Jarred asked me if I wanted to go and discover the truth behind that corridor and if there’s really a ghost living there.

I asked him “Are you out of your mind? Are you crazy?” He whispered, “I’m dead serious, I got a plan.” I screamed “Ok. Then tell me your s**** plan Jarred.” He said, “Ok here it goes. So we use some walkie talkie and our mobile phones and to get in contact with each other while one person stands outside and there other goes inside the corridor with the walkie talkie on and the mobile phone on call in case the walkie talkie doesn’t work and a rope tied around our hips in case anything happens the other one pulls him back. Are you with me?” I said that “I mean are you sure that’s safe.” He screamed with excitement. “Hell, yeah that’s safe.” Let’s get started by tomorrow at lunch time. I get the walkie talkie and you get the rope. Deal? I said “Ok deal”. So the second day comes and its second period after lunch and I’m shaking fear. The bell rings for lunch and I started looking for Jarred so we get started with the plan. 15 minutes have passed and I still can’t find him. So I decided to head to the corridor by myself and wait for Jarred over there.

I get to the corridor and see Jarred waiting for me with the walkie talkies set in his hands ready. Jarred said, “He’ll go in first and I should follow him after. So he both agreed on it. I started to tie the rope around his hips so that I could pull him when he calls for help. We set the walkie talkie on and we called
each other on the phone. Jarred took his first few steps heading towards the corridor when he heard a voice screaming. “Come in it’s fun over here”. So he got scared but he still wanted to do it. So he was walking until I lost sight of him so we were in contact only through the walkie talkies and phone.

So he said that, “there’s nothing here so far.” So he keeps walking and sees this new beautiful world where the new boy was lost and other people. And a voice of the new boy telling him to come in. So he went in and couldn’t believe his eyes. He told me to go in there straight away to see the new world. I went in and it was like a dream come true. I couldn’t believe my eyes. So we had to tell the whole school about it so they don’t think that there was a ghost in there and no one will be scared to get in that corridor again.

Karaar Al Helou
10Eng3

**ESL Report**

**Student Success**
One of our Year 10 students, Ahmed Abbas, recently made it to Achievement level and has passed first round of finalist hosted by Writing for Fun. This is a poem and short story writing competition based around the concept of creativity. Ahmed was thrilled with his success. Keep up the good work!!

Ms V.Sharma
ESL Coordinator

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**SRC Report**

On 26 May 2015 Errol Blas, Adam El-Cheikh, Zeidan Mansi and Mouhamed Hawa attended the National Sorry Day at Bankstown City Council. National Sorry Day is an Australia wide observance held on 26 May each year. This day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities. Stolen generations refer to Indigenous Australians who were forcibly removed from their families and communities.

Bankstown City Council acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional country of the Daruk people. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, belief and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living today. Council acknowledges other Aboriginals and Torres Strait communities to advance reconciliation in the city.

On the day we watched a really touching video about the stolen generation and also heard speeches from Aboriginal descendants.

Errol Blas
SRC President
Community News

School’s New Look Website
Have a look at our school’s new look website! Here you’ll find useful information about our school including upcoming events, school holidays, school start times and end times, public holidays etc on the calendar section. http://www.birrongboys.h.schools.nsw.edu.au/en/home

EFTpos is available at Birrong Boys’ High
Families, just a reminder that EFTpos payments are available at the front office for parents, carers and students. EFTpos may be used for payments of school fees, uniform, equipment and excursions. No cash available.

HOME WORK CENTRE
When: Mondays and Tuesdays
3:10 to 4:10pm
Where: School Library
Who: All students welcome
Research and Reading
Help with assessments / assignments / Internet access
A quiet place to finish school tasks
IT’S FREE!
Afternoon tea provided
You cannot attend the Homework Centre without a signed permission note from your parent / carer.

HIGH SCHOOL REUNION
BIRRONG BOYS’ HIGH SCHOOL
1965 - 50 YEAR
SCHOOL REUNION
Calling all scholars from 1965 year for a reunion on 31 October 2015 at 2.00pm.
If interested call:
Peter Parawa M 0423 046 115
T 02 4625 5705
John Parker M 0430 217 094
Zak EL-SOUEISSI  
Year 8  
Favourite Sport  
Rugby League  
Favourite Food  
Fish and chips  
Favourite Subject  
English  
What I like about BBHS  
Recess and lunch  
When I leave school I want to be  
 Own my own mechanic’s business  

Jafar AL KHZAALY  
Year 12  
Favourite Sport  
Soccer  
Favourite Food  
Fast food  
Favourite Subject  
English  
What I like about BBHS  
Students and teachers  
When I leave school I want to be  
A dentist
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. 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 Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

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 and Communities 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 Conference

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 Department of Education and Communities 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.

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

Policy, Information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

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.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team
T 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
T 0244 6120
www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities
WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?
The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

The national data collection will count students who have been identified as receiving an adjustment to address a disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?
The aim of the national data collection is to collect better information about school students with disability in Australia.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and families to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

The national data collection is an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?
All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

When implementing the national data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through the national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. The data will help schools to better support students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?
All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together so that students with disability can participate in education. The Standards can be accessed via the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?
A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. Reasonable adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings), in the classroom (such as adapting class lessons) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?
Every year your child’s school will collect the following information for each student with a disability:

- the student’s level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- the student’s level of adjustment
- the student’s broad type of disability.

The information collected by schools will be provided to all governments to inform policy and
programme improvement for students with disability.

WHO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The definition of disability for the national data collection is based on the broad definition under the DDA.

For the purposes of the national data collection, students with learning difficulties such as dyslexia or auditory processing disorder as well as chronic health conditions like epilepsy, diabetes or asthma, that require active monitoring by the school, may be included.

WHO WILL COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

Teachers and school staff will identify the number of students with disability in their school and the level of reasonable adjustment they are provided based on:

- consultation with parents and carers in the course of determining and providing reasonable adjustments
- the school team’s observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for ensuring the information identified about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD’S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential. Personal details such as student names or other identifying information will not be provided to local or federal education authorities.


IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION COMPULSORY?

All education ministers agreed to full implementation of the national data collection from 2015. This means that all schools must now collect and report information annually on the number of students with disability in their care and the level of adjustment provided to them.

Information about the arrangements that may apply to your school in relation to this data collection is available from your child’s school principal and the relevant education authority or association of independent schools.

Even if your child’s information is not included in the national data collection, the school is still required to provide support to your child with education needs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may involve your child.


An e-learning resource about the Disability Standards for Education 2005 is freely available for the use of individuals, families and communities at http://resource.dse.thedducationinstitute.edu.au/.