**IS IT IMPORTANT FOR MY CHILD TO ARRIVE AT SCHOOL ON TIME?**

YES: It is important that your child arrives at school ready to go into class at 9.00am. The teacher is on duty from 8.30am. Children who arrive after 9.00am can be disadvantaged in a number of ways:

- They can feel embarrassed, uncertain or unhappy because they are late.
- They miss out on morning routines, so are not well organised for the day.
- They miss out on instructions about what is happening and have to catch up.
- They start the day unsettled.
- They miss out on learning time.
- They miss out on the informal social time with their friend and teachers.

Being late also disrupts the other children and teacher, which can have an unsettling effect on the whole class.

We understand that children may be late on odd occasions due to unforeseen circumstances and that occasionally our morning routines may be disrupted for various reasons. Being late on a regular basis is not acceptable.

**WHAT IF MY CHILD REFUSES TO GO TO SCHOOL?**

If your child refuses to go to school or you are having difficulties in the morning getting them to school, you should contact the child’s teacher or the principal immediately. They will be able to work with you to get your child attending school regularly.

Remember: it is better to get help early before your child develops poor habits of attendance.
Our vision for Blyth Primary School students is based on the development of the child as a whole to realise their full potential.

At Blyth Primary School students will be provided learning opportunities, which develop their Thinking, Communication, Identity and Interdependence skills, thereby preparing them to embrace the Future.

Children gain most from their schooling, when they attend regularly. From the first day of school it is essential, parents support their children’s education by dev

Evidence shows, with regular attendance and by arriving at school on time, students are happier, more comfortable with their peers and teachers, and generally find learning easier and more satisfying as they have fewer gaps in their understanding.

WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL TIMES?
Children can begin arriving from 8.30am, so they are ready to enter class at 9.00am.
The school day ends at 3.30pm, with the bus departing school at approximately 3.50pm.

MUST I SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?
YES: It is law, under the Education Act of South Australia, that all children from 6 to 16 years of age must be enrolled and attend school.

MUST I SEND MY CHILD EVERY DAY?
YES: unless your child
✓ Is too sick
✓ Has an infectious disease such as chicken pox
✓ Is incapacitated by injury and cannot move around school
✓ Is accompanying his or her parents/caregivers on a family holiday, which cannot be arranged in school holidays. The school should be notified prior to departure so the appropriate documentation can be completed.
And/or unless the principal
✓ Is provided with an acceptable reason preventing the child’s attendance.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY?
Some of the effects experienced by children who do not attend school regularly include:
✓ Missing out on learning basic concepts
✓ Gaps in their knowledge & understanding of skills taught
✓ Difficulty developing & maintaining friendships, which can result in isolation, bullying or teasing.
✓ Poor self esteem & confidence
✓ Belief that punctuality & attendance are unimportant
✓ Failure to learn punctuality and organisational skills
✓ Increased likelihood of leaving high school at an early age.

MUST I NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IF MY CHILD IS AWAY?
Yes: you are encouraged to contact the school if your child is going to be away or has been away for 3 days or longer. On return to school, please complete a NOTIFICATION of STUDENT ABSENCE form.

You are strongly encouraged to organise times for haircuts, doctor’s appointments and work experience etc out of school hours if possible.