“What if my child arrives late in the morning?”

Lateness is a serious matter and is recorded by the teacher, including the arrival time. A note explaining lateness is required from the parent/guardian. Being late or being away adds up from Reception to Year 10.

- 5 days away a term adds up to more than 1 year missed of schooling, that’s 220 days.
- 1 day a week adds up to 2 years and 1 term, or 451 days.
- Half an hour late a day also equals 1 year and 1 and a half terms away from school.

“What if my child becomes ill, will I be informed?”

Yes, and if the accident or illness is serious, this will be done at once. For this reason, it is most important that the school is provided with up to date and reliable home, work and emergency telephone numbers. If these change at any time, it is important that the school is notified.

“What if my child has a dental, medical or some other important appointment?”

Appointments should be arranged out of school hours where possible. If the appointment is in school hours a note should be given to the teacher detailing the appointment, and the child should be signed out at the front office.

“What does the law say about attending school?”

In South Australia it is compulsory for children between the ages of six and sixteen to attend school. Parents or guardians are responsible for making sure children go to school. Parents or guardians can be taken to court and fined if they persistently and knowingly do not send children to school.
**INTRODUCTION**

At Highgate School we want every young person to have a high quality education.

A good education is an indicator of future success.

Attitudes to school and attendance are formed in the first years of school.

If you believe school is important and attendance essential to achieving a successful education, your child will also believe this.

*Truancy in High School can be linked to students with poor attendance and regular lateness in Primary School.*

**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS AND STUDENTS**

**“What are the start times of school?”**

Students should arrive between 8:30am and 8:50am. Classes start at 8:50am and students are allowed into their classrooms in the presence of their teachers at 8:30am.

**“Can my child arrive before 8:30am?”**

Supervision of the yard by teachers commences at 8:30am. If your child arrives before 8:30 he/she will need to report to the office.

If you need your child to attend school prior to supervision, our Out of School Hours Care service is available from 7:30am.

**“Does my child need to attend school every day?”**

Students must attend school on every school day. This is necessary if they are to successfully cover all the work in their many subjects and build positive relationships with their classmates and be organised. Students who regularly miss school often find it more difficult to maintain friendships.

**“What if my child is ill?”**

If your child is ill then he/she must stay home. Parents/caregivers must contact the school and advise that their child will be absent.

A medical certificate is required if the absence is greater than three days.