Every Day Counts When Kids Are Learning

The Federal Government is heavily promoting the importance of student attendance at school. Senator Scott Ryan recently wrote an article in the Herald Sun entitled “Every day counts when kids are learning to count”. We have included a shortened version of his article to encourage parents/carers to send their children to school every day.

The article:

*If a parent was told their child has a 90 per cent school attendance rate, they probably wouldn’t be too worried.*

*A few days off school with a tummy ache, a few days off school to catch up on sleep, a few days off school to visit relatives – what’s the big deal?*

*But what they were told that if their child stays home one in every 10 school days, by the start of Year 10 that means they will have missed a full year of schooling.*

*Most parents would react with horror at the idea of missing a whole year of school. And rightly so.*

*Too many students are missing too many classes. This creates problems for teachers, who are forced to spend time playing ‘catch-up’ to bring absent students up-to-date. It creates issues for other students who sit down to finish a group project only to find one or two members of their group are constantly missing.*

*But most of all, it creates serious difficulties for the student who is missing. A student’s level of attendance has a major influence on their academic performance. Studies have shown the most a student misses school, the lower a student’s NAPLAN text score. NAPLAN measures the essential skills necessary for learning and in a workplace.*

*Parents need to impress on their child the importance of attending school every single day.*

*A day off here and there might not seem important, but the effect accumulates over time.*

*In 2015, the number one lesson for all parents needs to be: children who attend every day will be more successful adults.*

*Every day matters.*

If you have any concerns about your child’s attendance, please ring the relevant Sub-school and seek advice. Our school policy requires 90% attendance for automatic promotion and for meeting the requirements of VCE/VCAL.