



Mount Warrigal Public School

'Aim Higher'

A quality school developing the individual in a caring community.

2 Hogarth Avenue, Mount Warrigal NSW 2528 Ph: 02 4296 6266 Fax: 02 4297 2816
Email: mtwarrigal-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au Website: www.mtwarrigal-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

"At Mount Warrigal Public School, we acknowledge the Aboriginal people and Elders, both past and present, who hold the memories and respect the traditional ways of the Dharawal people. We respect their connection to the surrounding environment, the mountains, lake and the sea."



Ms Lyndall Holden
Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Community

Welcome back to Term 2! Welcome to all new families joining our wonderful family here at Mount Warrigal Public School, I am biased, but you have made an excellent choice as we are the best school in the region! I am excited for another big term of learning, play and fun! We have made such excellent progress with all students regarding academic achievement, social and emotional learning. This term we will see the disabled bathroom finished, support unit kitchen completed and hopefully a few other improvements made to our school. During our two days of professional learning our teachers engaged in the system wide High Potential Gifted Education Day. This professional learning centred around what we are offering as a school, in terms of our high performing students. We looked at a range of strategies and are exploring new ways for classroom teachers to cater to the needs of all children. The second day we engaged in music, routines and collaborative practice. Teachers have enriched their capacity in music and will continue to strengthen their knowledge in this area.

Community Charter

At the end of last term, we had some very unpleasant exchanges at our back gate on Roycroft Avenue. These exchanges were both verbally and physically unpleasant for staff, students and the community to witness. As a school this behaviour will not be tolerated. I understand that tempers and tolerance can be tested at times, but as adults we need to be modelling the correct behaviour for our children. The Community Charter clearly demonstrates the behaviour we expect from parents, visitors and any other adults on or near our school. I have included the charter in this newsletter, so we are aware of the expectations.

Student Code of Conduct

To start the Term off right I have included the Behaviour Code for students as a reminder of the expected behaviour standards at Mount Warrigal Public School. This is the minimum level of acceptable behaviour that students must adhere to when on school grounds or at a school event off site. We take this code seriously and will have a focus on students' behaviour during 2025. We would like you to take the time to read this code together with your children and discuss the expectations of their behaviour when at school. We will refer to this often, especially when challenges arise for your children.

Uniform

School uniform is a vital part of our school's identity and sense of belonging, like your local football club. On game day your child would not run onto the field with the wrong-coloured jersey on. At Mount Warrigal Public School, we are a team and are asking that you support your child to be part of this wonderful team of ours. You can purchase maroon shorts, track pants, slopy joe's and jackets from Big W or Best and Less or otherwise at school from our uniform shop. School hats are a must. Students not wearing school hats will be asked to play in the shaded areas of the playground. Caps are not considered sun safe and are not recommended or supported by our Department of Education. We will be focusing on uniform as a part of our building routines for students this term. You may receive a note in your child's bag requesting the correct uniform. Being positive and supportive of this initiative is important aspect to building a positive school culture between home and school.

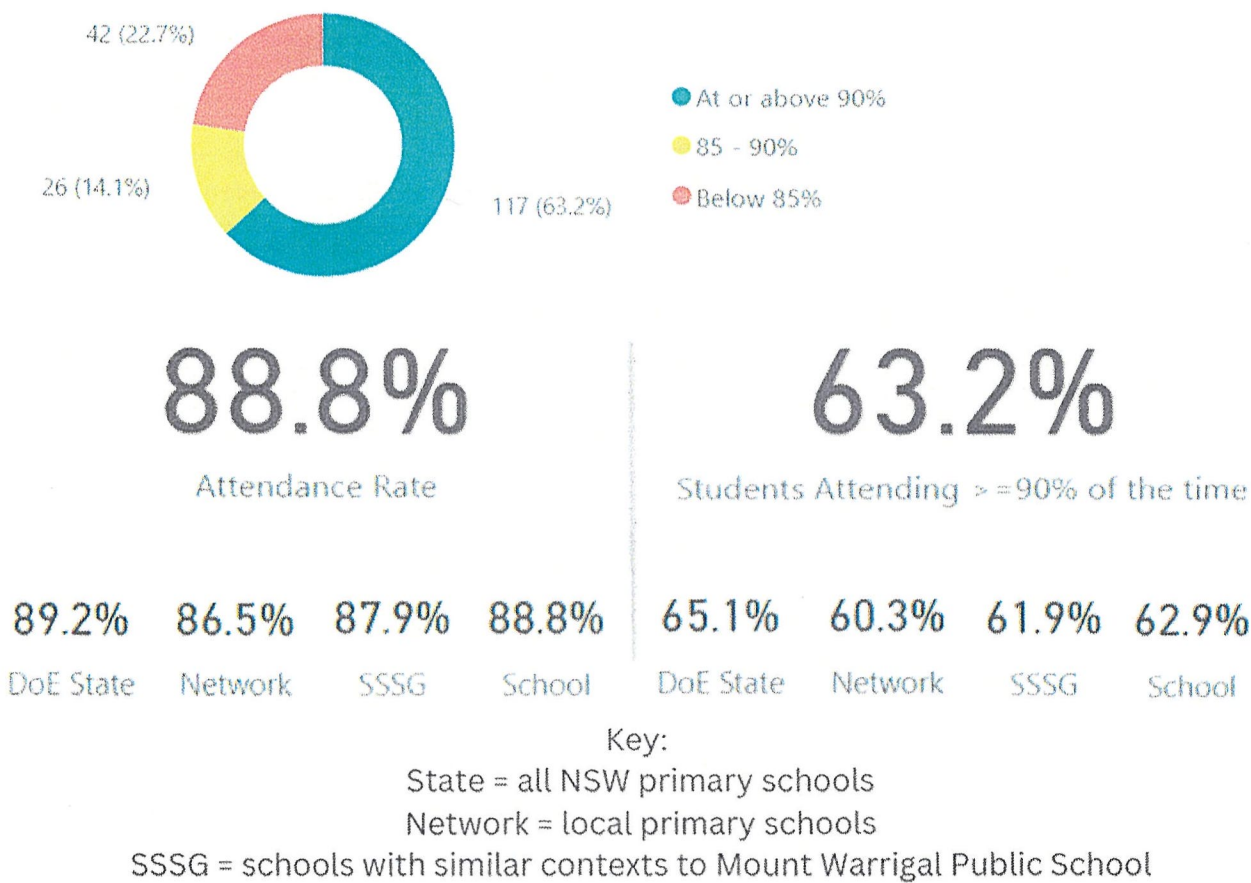
Academic Reports

This term academic reports will be going home closer to the end of the term. Our Department of Education have revised the reporting guidelines and are providing advice for schools to use moving forward. We have decided to adopt the slight changes they have made. English and Mathematic are mandatory and will have a grade and an effort as well as a comment section with areas of strength and an area of development explained. General comments are also mandatory, this is where other KLA's will be commented on, as well as behavioural outcomes and or sporting achievements. The new template will be easier to read and have information in parent friendly language. If you are concerned about the report, please see your child's AP for the Stage to discuss your concerns.

Attendance

Congratulations Mount Warrigal, we finished the Term 1 with excellent results! Attendance in the early years of schooling they say is a precursor to achievement in the High School and beyond. Developing solid morning routines with your child is essential for a good rhythm of attendance. Of course, we understand that from time-to-time sickness will strike and staying at home and getting well is important.

Attendance Level



I have included the explanation of what constitutes an explained absence, as this has caused some confusion at the end of last term. If you are going on a holiday during the school term, you must apply through the front office for an exemption certificate. Teachers are not allowed to grant leave for this purpose, only the Principal can grant leave for a holiday. The ladies in the office can help you fill the form out and return once it is signed.

Numeracy Screener

The Department of Education are developing a Numeracy Screener for Year 1 students. We have been lucky enough to be selected to participate in the trial of this new resource. There were only 160 schools in the state selected. The screener is a diagnostic tool for teachers to use to screen students understanding in numeracy. The screener will become a mandatory part of our assessment schedule after the trail period has been completed, and the final version is available to all schools in 2026. I have included the information for parents in this newsletter. Again, this screener is an assessment tool like the phonic checker we have already implemented, and it is only for Year 1 students at this stage. More information will become available for Year 1 students later in the term regarding when the assessment will take place.

External Validation

Our school cyclic External Validation process has come around again. This means that the Executive Team have been examining evidence of collaborative practice, wellbeing, engagement and effective classroom practice. Once we have collected and annotated our evidence from the school, we then map this evidence against the School Excellence Framework and make judgments as to where we believe we are at this point in the cycle. This then leads to a new Schools Excellent Plan (SEP) being developed. I am looking forward to examining our current status quo and looking forward to developing a plan that meets the needs of our school and the community of learners we have. More information will come out once we have finished the process with an opportunity for the community to participate in the findings.

Limited Canteen

As the canteen is closed, we are taking this opportunity to use some days where limited items will be available for the children to purchase as part of Year 6 and Southern Stars fundraising. A menu of what's on offer will be advertised early in the term and reminders will go out on School Bytes. Lunch orders for these days will be CASH ONLY. We hope that you can support this as staff will be working hard to use this fundraising opportunity. Year 6 are working towards purchasing a hall runner for our school hall. The first canteen day will be this Friday 2nd May.

NSW School Survey

In Term 2, we are offering our students the opportunity to participate in the NSW Public Schools Student Survey. The survey gives students the chance to share their thoughts and feelings about life at school, including questions about their engagement, learning experiences and wellbeing at school.

Hearing directly from our students will help us understand what's working well and where improvements can be made to our school. The survey is confidential, takes around 10 to 15 minutes to complete, and will be conducted online during school hours.

Participation is voluntary. If you prefer your child not to participate, please contact the office to have an opt-out form sent home. Further information about the survey is available at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/npss>

Warm Regards

Ms Holden

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 **Crimestoppers** 1800 333 000 **School Security** 1300 880 021

Dates for Your Calendar

Every Day	Breakfast Club from 8:30am
Friday 2 nd May	Canteen Order (cash ONLY)
7 th May & 9 th May	Mother's Day Stall (\$5 per gift)
9 th May	Assembly at 2pm
9 th May	Mother's Day Afternoon Tea with students from 1.40pm – 2.10pm
19 th May	Boys Netball PSSA Trials
23 rd May	Assembly at 2pm
23 rd May	Spelling Bee School Final
27 th May – 3 rd June	Reconciliation Week
6 th June	Assembly at 2pm
9 th June	PUBLIC HOLIDAY-Kings Birthday
11 th June	School Athletics Carnival at Myimbarr Athletics Field
27 th June	School Athletics Carnival
3 rd July	Spotlight Assembly Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 at 11.45am

School Community Charter

Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.

The following School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

What our schools provide

NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when parents and schools work together.

The School Community Charter aligns with the NSW Department of Education Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022.



Positive environments

It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

Parents and carers can expect:

- to be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.
- communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.
- professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
- to be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

We treat each other with respect

We prioritise the wellbeing of all students and staff

Unsafe behaviour is not acceptable in our schools

We work together with the school

Ensuring respectful learning environments for all members of NSW Public Schools communities.



We create collaborative learning environments

We all play a part

We work in partnership to promote student learning

Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process: education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students

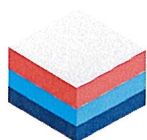
Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



**Collaborative.
Respectful.
Communication.**

School Community Charter

Behaviour code for students

Information for students and parents or carers

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive, and responsive learning environments for everyone across a range of settings. We teach and model the inclusive and safe behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected, to the best of their ability, to:

- show respect to other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- strive for the highest standards in learning
- act in a courteous and respectful way that makes all members of the school community feel valued, included and supported
- resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- meet the school's agreed uniform policy or dress code
- attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- respect all property
- be safe and not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, vapes, e-cigarettes or tobacco into our schools
- not bully, harass, intimidate, or discriminate against anyone in our schools.

Schools take action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high-quality teaching and learning.

All students have a right to:

- safety at school
- access and fully participate in their learning
- be treated with respect by other students, teachers and school staff
- express their views, set goals and self-advocate.

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments and apply an appropriate action when students are not meeting these expectations.

The department is responsible for the provision of a policy framework and resources such as legal issues bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment.

In this context, the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

Behaviour code for students: Student actions

Promoting the inclusion, learning, wellbeing, and safety of all students in NSW public schools is a high priority for the Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches across a range of settings to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

To meet the expectations set out above, students in NSW public schools, to the best of their ability, should adhere to the following principles.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity.
- Communicate and behave courteously.
- Act and work cooperatively with other students, teachers, and school staff.
- Develop positive and respectful relationships.
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others.
- Respect the learning needs of other students.
- Dress appropriately by wearing the agreed school uniform or dress code.
- Take care with school property and the property of staff and other students.

Safety

- Model and follow school and class rules and expectations around behaviour and conduct.
- Negotiate and resolve conflict.
- Be aware of and take responsibility for how their behaviour and actions impact others.
- Care for self and others.
- Be safe and help others to make safe choices that do not hurt themselves or others.

Engagement

- Arrive at school and class on time.
- Be prepared for every lesson.
- Actively participate in learning.
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning.

Telephone interpreter service

If you would like more information please call the school principal. If you need an interpreter to assist with your enquiry, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language.

Tell the operator the phone number you want to call and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

PRICELIST

2025

Our school shirt was designed through a school competition by the students.



Sport Shirt \$35

School Polo \$29

Shorts \$26

Sloppy Joe \$27

Tracksuit Set \$70

Tracksuit Jacket \$40

Tracksuit Pants \$30

School Hats \$10

In Stock Now

(Tracksuit sold as set however, you may buy different sizes in tops and bottoms)

All uniform items available in various sizes

*Uniforms may be purchased from the school office or
pay on School Bytes then ring the school office and we will send home
with your child to talk home.*

A quality school developing the individual in a caring community
***Kindness *Safety *Respect *Fairness**



Attendance Policy and Procedures

Reviewed and updated: 28th April, 2025

Policy Statement

Section 22 of the Education Act (1990) states that it is the duty of the parent of a child of compulsory school age to enrol their child at, and to attend, a government school or a registered non-government school, or to be registered for home schooling with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESE) and to receive instruction in accordance with the conditions to which the registration is subject.

All students who are enrolled at school, regardless of their age, are expected to attend that school whenever instruction is provided.

Section 24 of the Act requires principals to maintain an attendance register (roll) in a form approved by the Minister. Attendance registers must be available for inspection during school hours by a Board Inspector or by an authorised person.

Context

Mount Warrigal Public School believes regular attendance at school is essential to assist students to maximise their potential. We, in partnership with parents, promote the regular attendance of students.

Responsibilities & Delegations

Students

Students are required to:

- attend school each day unless there is an acceptable reason for absence
- make every day count in their learning
- report to the office if arriving at school after 9am
- never leave school grounds during school hours without permission from parents/carers and the school.

Parents and Carers

It is the duty of the parent/carer of a child enrolled at Mount Warrigal Public School to ensure their child attends school. Parents/carers are required to:

- ensure their child arrives at school on time each day.
- explain the absences of their child from school promptly and within seven (7) days of the first day of any period of absence. This can be done by indicating the absence using School Bytes or phoning the school.
- provide the school with a medical certificate on the third (3rd) day of illness. If a medical certificate is not provided the absence will be recorded as unjustified.
- inform the school of any planned leave (both short and extended) during the school term.
- inform the school if they need any support with fulfilling their responsibilities outlined with these policies and procedures. This may include initiating and attending meetings to seek support and discuss their child's attendance and participation.

School

Mount Warrigal Public School is required to:

- undertake all reasonable measures to contact parents/carers on the same day of an absence

Attendance Policy and Procedures, 2025

where parents have not contacted the school. Contact will be made by text message through School Bytes each day when a student is absent without a reason.

- ensure their attendance records are maintained in an approved format and are an accurate record of the attendance of students.
- contact families of students with three (3) consecutive unexplained absences.
- provide clear information to students and parents regarding attendance requirements and the consequences of unsatisfactory attendance.
- ensure the school has effective measures in place to monitor and follow up student absences.
- seek approval to contact the student's doctor so the school has all relevant information regarding the student's health care needs.
- ensure that any matter relating to school attendance where safety, welfare or wellbeing concerns arise for a student are addressed in line with Department of Education procedures. This includes making reports to the Child Protection Helpline, contacting the Child Wellbeing unit, and requesting police welfare checks, as required.
- develop strategies to ensure regular attendance at school.
- ensure school staff are provided with information on attendance requirements and their obligation to monitor and promote regular attendance at school.
- work with the allocated Home-School Liaison Officer (HSLO) to monitor the regular attendance of students and develop and implement strategies to support students with identified attendance issues.

Attendance Team

The Attendance Team is required to:

- monitor whole school, class and individual attendance weekly.
- implement whole school attendance rewards.
- implement individual attendance reward systems alongside the classroom teacher.
- support classroom teachers to communicate with families regarding attendance.
- meet twice a term with the HSLO to monitor and discuss individual attendance.
- initiate HSLO procedures when a student's attendance drops below 85%.

Principal

The principal is required to:

- ensure that classroom teachers correctly implement the Attendance Policy and Procedures.
- support the Attendance Team to implement whole school and individual strategies to promote good attendance.
- meet with the HSLO as required.

The principal or their delegate have the authority to:

- grant sick leave to students whose absences are satisfactorily explained as being due to illness.
- accept other explanations for absence and record the absence as leave.
- decline to accept an explanation for absence and record the absence as unjustified.
- approve or decline Extended Travel Leave applications.

Justified Reasons for an Absence

On occasion, a student may need to be absent from school. The Department of Education states that justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease – a medical certificate should be provided to the school on the third (3rd) day of absence. If no medical certificate is provided, the absence will be unjustified. Communication stating a child is 'sick' without specific details will be unjustified.

Attendance Policy and Procedures, 2025

- having an unavoidable medical appointment – these appointments should be made outside of school hours. If this is not possible, students should attend school before and after their appointment.
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday – the Department of Education allows one justified absence (1 day) per religious holiday.
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral).

All these absences must be explained to the school through the forementioned methods. If the purpose for leave falls outside of these reasons, the absence will be recorded as 'unjustified'.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, parents/carers should make an appointment to discuss this with the 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. The principal will consider various factors before approving or declining the leave, including the student's current attendance level.

In some circumstances, students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with the principal.

Whole School Attendance Procedures

If...	Then...
a student is sick	• a parent or carer should inform the school using School Bytes. • the school will record the absence as 'sick'. • on the third day of illness, a medical certificate should be provided to the school office or the absence will be recorded as unjustified.
a student has an infectious disease	• this must be confirmed by a medical professional. • a medical certificate must be supplied to the school office. • the office will inform families when the student can return to school. This may be under the guidance of the medical professional (as displayed on the medical certificate) or relevant infectious disease information guidelines. • the office will communicate appropriate information to the school community about the infectious disease.
a student has an unavoidable medical appointment	• all efforts should be made by the family to move this appointment outside of school hours. • the family should contact the office to inform them of the medical appointment and times at which the appointment takes place. • students should attend school before and/or after their appointment. If a student has a whole day absence, it could be recorded as unjustified.
a student is required to attend a recognised religious holiday	• the family should contact the office to inform them of the religious holiday. • the student will be given one (1) day justified absence. • any other absences will be recorded as unjustified.
a student has an exceptional or urgent family circumstance	• the family should contact the office to inform them of the circumstance. • all efforts should be made for students to return to school when possible. • the absence will be recorded as either justified or unjustified, depending on the circumstance.
a student is required to take extended leave	• the family should contact the office to request extended leave. • the family will need to complete an Extended Leave Travel Form and provide the school with the itinerary (including flight details).

Attendance Policy and Procedures, 2025

	- the school will provide a letter informing the family of whether the extended leave has been approved or not. - if the leave is for more than 50 school days, alternative schooling arrangements will need to be made through distance education or a school at the destination of leave. - the school will not provide any schoolwork for students on extended leave.
a student has three (3) consecutive days of unexplained absences	- the classroom teacher will phone the family and request an explanation of the absence. - the teacher will advise the family of the appropriate actions depending on the reason for absence. - the teacher will make a record on the student file using School Bytes.
a student arrives after 9am	- they should report to the school office with the adult dropping them to school to explain the reason for being late. - if the student reports to the office without an adult, the family will be informed and a reason will be requested. - the lateness will be recorded as a partial absence.
a student needs to leave before 2:55pm	- a parent/carer should report to the front office and provide the reason for leaving early. - the early departure is recorded as a partial absence and will be recorded as either 'justified' or 'unjustified'.
a student drops below 90% attendance in a term	- the classroom teacher will contact the family to discuss reasons for non-attendance and reiterate the importance of regular attendance. - the classroom teacher will inform their supervisor and principal's delegate of the student and any interventions in place. - all communications and interventions will be recorded on School Bytes.
a student drops below 85% attendance in a term	- the classroom teacher will send Letter 1a to the student's parent/carer via School Bytes. - the Attendance Lead will monitor attendance of the student - the classroom teacher supported by the Attendance Lead will develop a 4-week Attendance Improvement Plan and monitor student attendance during this period. - if attendance does not significantly improve, the Attendance Lead will - contact the HSLO. - all communications and interventions will be recorded on School Bytes.
a student drops below 80% attendance in a term	- the actions for <85% should have been initiated. - the Attendance Lead will contact the family and begin to develop relationships with parents/carers and the student. - the classroom teacher will continue to monitor the Attendance Improvement Plan. - the Attendance Lead will monitor the student's attendance and refer the student to the HSLO if no significant improvement is seen. - all communications and interventions will be recorded on School Bytes.

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au



Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

5 mins
per day



=

3 days



30 mins
per day



=

18 days



Patterns of lateness
can have a serious
impact on your child's
education.

education.nsw.gov.au

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

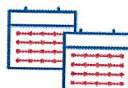
Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

Year 1 Number Screening Check trial

Information for parents and carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Numeracy skills are important for your child's learning and development. These skills help children participate in everyday activities like solving problems, understanding patterns and handling money.

A number screening check is being trialled in some NSW Department for Education schools in Term 2, 2025. Year 1 students in participating government schools will complete the check during May and June.

The number screening check is a short, simple assessment that tells teachers how your child is progressing in numeracy.

This trial will be administered during normal school hours in one short session. Teachers will ask your child questions individually and record their answers.

If your child is struggling the teacher will stop. The trial is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

Your child does not need to prepare or study for the check.

Your child's personal details will not be collected.

Participation in the trial is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child choose not to. If you do not want your child to take part in the trial, or have any further questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Ms Holden
Principal
Mount Warrigal Public School