



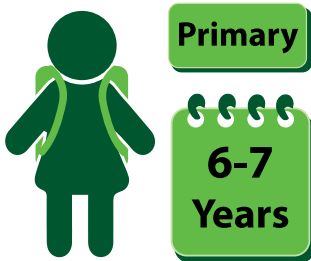
School education



School in Australia



Children in Australia need to go to school between the ages of 5 and 17.

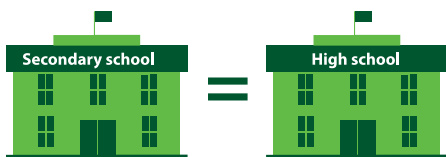


They will go to:

- primary school for 6 or 7 years



- secondary school for at least 4 years



Secondary school is often called high school in Australia.



Most children also go to preschool for 1 year before they start primary school.



Children are put into grades or year levels based on their age.



This can be different in different states and territories.



There are 2 main types of schools in Australia:

- government schools



- private schools

Government schools

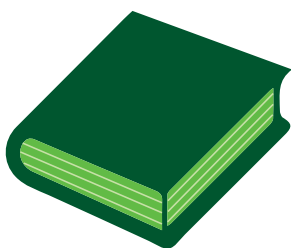


Most children will go to a government school.

They can also be called state schools.



You do not need to pay school fees if your child goes to a government school.



You do need to pay for things like:

- books



- other items children use in class



- uniforms – the clothes they need to wear



- camps and excursions – activities children do away from the school

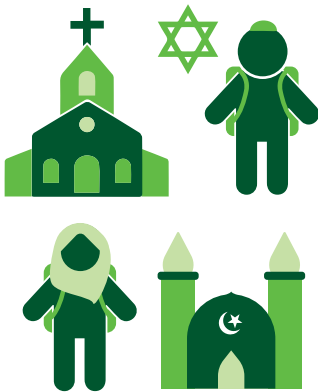


You can speak to someone at the school's office if you think you will not be able to pay for all of these things.

Private schools



Private schools are often run by:



- religious groups – Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Protestant, Jewish or Muslim



- independent groups



The fees for private schools can be very high.

Enrolling in school



You can get help to enrol your children in school from your:

- caseworker



- proposer



You will need to show:

- your travel documents



- your child's immunisation records – treatment they have had from a doctor or nurse to stop them getting sick



- reports or certificates that show what schooling or education your child already has

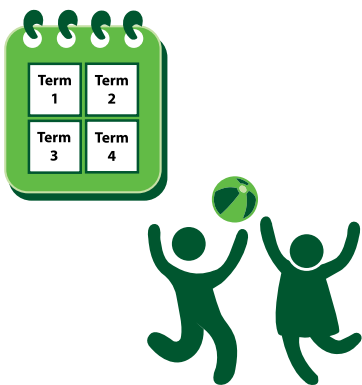
Going to school



The school year starts in late January and ends in December.

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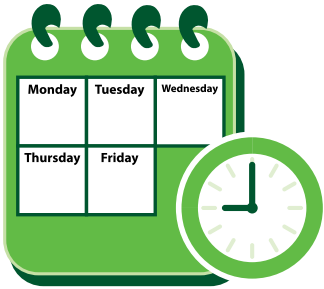
Most schools have 4 terms.



There are school holidays between the school terms.



Schools are closed on public holidays.



6 hours

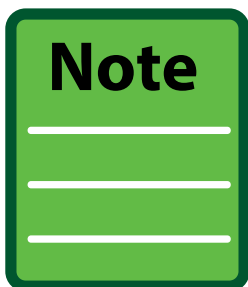
Most children go to school for about 6 hours a day from Monday to Friday.



Children must go to school. It is the law.



If your child does not go to school, you need to give the school a reason.



The school expects you to write a note telling them why your child was away.

Children in Australian schools



Children from different backgrounds mix together at school.



In a class there might be different:

- races
- religions
- social statuses



Most schools put boys and girls together in the same class.



There are some schools that are:

- only for boys



- only for girls

Children who need extra help



If your child needs extra help to learn English they can go to English as an Additional Language (EAL) classes.



EAL classes will usually be held at your child's school.

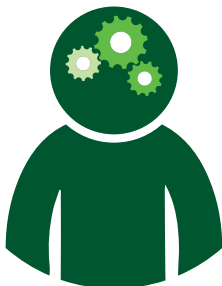


Children with special needs have the same rights as other children.



Your child might have special needs if they have a:

- physical disability



- mental disability



- hearing problem or they are deaf



- vision problem or they are blind



- learning disability



- problem with the way they behave



Children with special needs are often included in classes at regular schools.



There are also schools just for children with special needs.

What school is like



At school, the children are called students.



Teachers in Australian schools encourage their students to:

- think



- analyse – work out why things happen



Teachers do not expect students to learn by just remembering things.



Students take part in class by:

- asking questions



- talking about things



- trying different learning tasks and activities



Students can take part even if they do not speak much English.



Students are encouraged to take part in many different types of school activities:

- language – reading and writing



- mathematics – working with numbers



- sports



- music



- excursions and camps – trips away from school to give the students extra learning experiences



All schools teach the Australian Curriculum.

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

Parents and their child's school

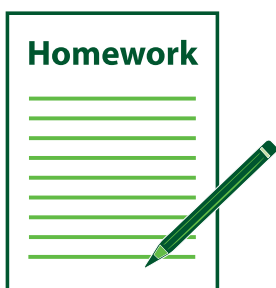


Schools want parents to be a part of their child's education.



You can:

- go to meetings and talk to your child's teacher



- make sure your child does all their school work and homework



- go to school events such as
 - concerts and plays
 - sports days



It is okay for you to talk to the principal of the school about:

- your child and their learning
- how things are going at the school



The principal is the school's leader.



You can find more information on the Department of Education and Training's website.

www.education.gov.au

Child care and early learning



Child care and early learning gives young children a chance to:

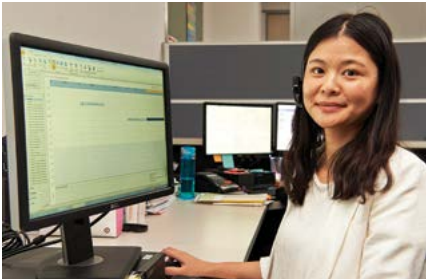
- learn and develop in a safe place



- play with and talk to other children



- understand their own moods, feelings and emotions as well as other people's



It also gives parents who have jobs a chance to go to work.



You can find more information about child care and early learning services on the MyChild website.

www.mychild.gov.au

