



Starting School TIP

Starting at a new school can be an emotional time for both you and your child. No matter what year level/grade they are in, here are some simple things you can do to help them become part of the school community.

1. Uniform

Ensure your child has the correct uniform before starting school. It is easier for a child to fit in, and to feel part of the school community when they look the same as the other students.

For older students, be sure to find out the new school's rules on things such as haircuts, jewellery, nail polish and make up.

Many schools also have sporting houses and/or colours. Find out what house your child has been allocated to as you will probably need to purchase a house shirt. Be sure to ask when they are expected to wear this house shirt.

2. Tour

Help prevent your child from being lost on the first day! Take them on a tour of the school before school starts. It is best to ring the office and ask for permission first as many schools do not allow people to wander around the grounds on the weekends.

Show your child their classroom and from there, help them find the nearest toilets and drink fountains. It may also help orientate them if you find things such as the library, music room, year level co-ordinators office, sick room/nurse, tuckshop/canteen and hall/assembly area.

3. Dismissal Procedures

Contact the school before the first day and find out what the dismissal procedures are. It would be better to know this before the first day so you can meet your child in the correct place.

You should also check the procedures for wet weather. Many schools have different arrangements for dismissal when it is raining.





4. Tuckshop/ school canteen

If your child will be using these facilities, ensure they know how they work at the new school. Every school operates differently so it is important to find out how your child will order, pay and collect food.

5. Co-curricular

Before starting at the school obtain the co-curricular timetables so your child can see what they may like to join. Be sure to obtain information about any tryout dates. Co-curricular is a wonderful way for new students to make friends and to quickly feel part of a group.

6. Dates

Most schools issue a calendar of events/ dates to remember. Ask the office for a copy or look on the school website. Make sure you mark any important dates on the family calendar to keep them free.

7. Becoming involved

There are many ways to become involved in your child's new school. It is a great way to meet other parents, especially if you are new to the area. Ask about:

- Parents and Friends committee - a parent body that usually meets monthly and organises school fundraisers among other things
- Classroom Help - many schools are always looking for volunteers to help in the classroom or library
- Tuckshop/canteen - another wonderful way to meet parents while preparing/selling food for the hungry student body

