

10. Schooling



Under Australian law, children must attend school until they are 15 years old. You should enroll your children in a school as soon as possible.

Education in Australia is a lifetime experience. Some form of school or training is available at each stage of life:

Pre-school

Pre-school is for children between three and five years old. Pre-school is usually part time. It is not compulsory. Pre-school is a gentle start for very young children to mix with their peers and to be apart from family for some time.

Primary school

Primary school begins for most children at age five. It is compulsory. Eight themes form the basis of learning in primary school. They are English, Health and Physical Education, Language other than English, Maths, Science, Society and Environment, Technology, and The Arts.

At primary school children begin to mix in larger groups of their peers where they learn about respect for each other. A major part of primary school learning is the skill to live in harmony with each other.

Most children attend a primary school close to where they live. In general, students attend school between 9am and 3pm for 40 weeks a year. Students wear a uniform at most schools. Children take their lunch and snacks to school or buy food at the canteen.

Secondary school

Secondary school is for older children. Most children start secondary school soon after they reach their teens. In early secondary school, students do core subjects such as English, Maths and Science.

They study more subjects called electives. Students do electives to prepare for later study or because the subject is of interest to them. In later secondary school, they choose subjects that will help them in their future career. Students learn about healthy lifestyle and about becoming young adults in a diverse society.

The government builds secondary schools in places to service a number of suburbs. Students may need to travel by public or private transport to get to a secondary school. In general, students attend school between 9am and 3pm for 40 weeks a year. Students wear a uniform at most schools and provide their own food.

For a complete list of schools in Victoria, please visit:

<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/schoolsonline/>

References:

Live in Victoria – <http://www.liveinvictoria.vic.gov.au>
Australia Education Website - <http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/schoolsonline/>