

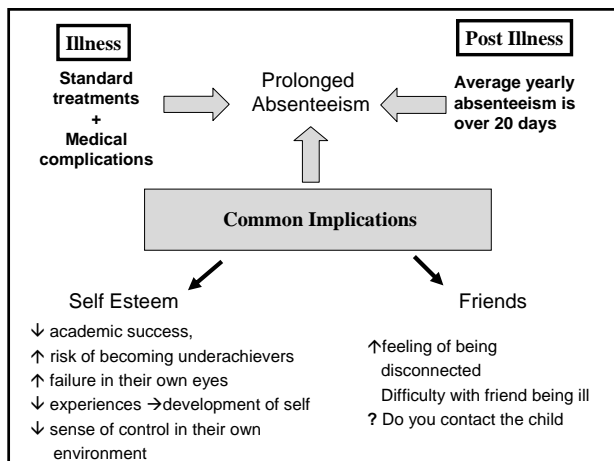
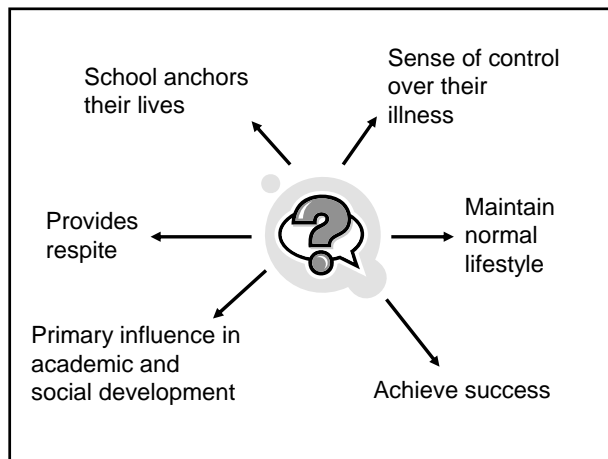
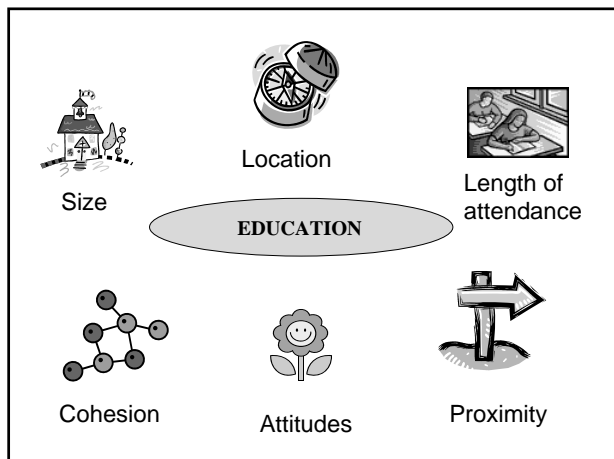
# Educational Implications of a Cancer Diagnosis

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Back on Track team

Have you ever been at sea in a dense fog, when it seemed as if a tangible white darkness shut you in and the great ship, tense and anxious, groped her way toward the shore with plummet and sounding-line, and you waited with beating heart for something to happen?

I was like that ship before my education began, only I was without compass or sounding line, and no way of knowing how near the harbour was. "Light! Give me light!" was the wordless cry of my soul, and the light of love shone on me in that very hour.

Helen Keller







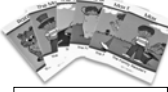


## Scenarios

**Year 1 Student**

**Year 7 Student**

**Year 11 Student**

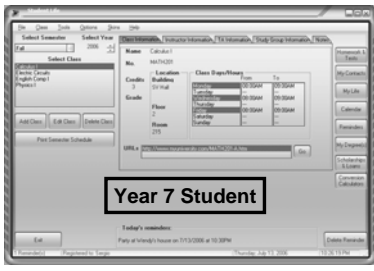
**Year 1 Student**

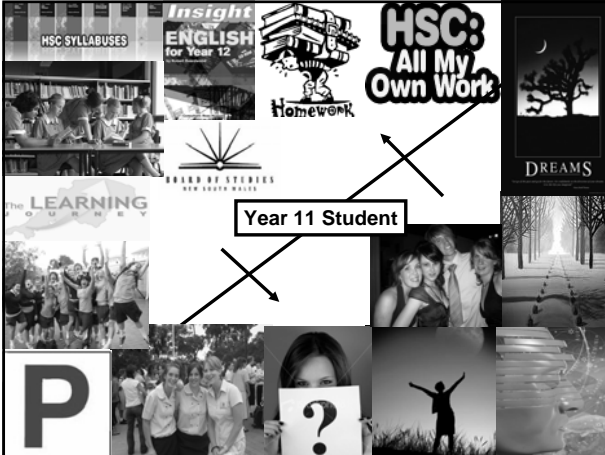
- Lack of opportunity to learn through exploration
- Key reading and numeracy skills
- Access to readers
- Lack of constant feedback
- Miss out on a diverse curriculum
- Haven't established clear peer relationships
- Lack of control over communication with peers

- Change of routine
- Timetable
- Extra curricular demands
- Subjects requiring group work and/ teacher direction
- Content can be more challenging
- New school to find their way around
- New subjects
- More teachers to coordinate
- Increased homework demands
- Increased assignment load
- Practical subjects requiring apparatus


**Year 7 Student**



**Year 11 Student**





A student at our school has just been diagnosed with cancer?  
What do we do now?





**A SCHOOL PLAN**  
When a student is diagnosed with cancer

1. Assign a key contact person at the school
2. Contact the family
3. Contact the clinical nurse consultant at the hospital
4. Form a support team and arrange a meeting. Invite the following:
  - Principal
  - Key contact person from the school
  - School counsellor
  - Christian Minister
  - Youth Advisor
  - Welfare staff
  - Special Education Needs Support Teacher
  - Class of Home Coordinator
  - Hospital School Teacher
  - Parent Advisor or counsellor (optional)
  - Parent (optional)
5. At the meeting:
  - Consider the medical, social and educational implications for the child
  - Consider the child's and family's views on getting level of disclosure to school staff
  - Discuss the child's current condition, how best to support them
  - Get the information to be disseminated to the child's class
  - Get the information to be shared with the child's support staff and the wider school community
  - Consider the support for the parents on the wider school community
  - Plan the disclosure of the news to the school community and supporting the disclosure
  - Arrange a time for the first meeting within two weeks

**Start with 1, 2, 3**

1. Assign a key contact person at the school to:
  - Liaise with the family
  - Manage the plan
2. Contact the family to:
  - Provide name and number of key contact person
  - Discuss disclosure
  - Invite them to a meeting
3. Contact the Clinical Nurse Consultant to:
  - Invite them to a meeting

## The Support Team

- Principal
- Key contact person from the school
- School counsellor
- Classroom Teacher/s
- Year Advisor
- Welfare staff
- Special Education and/or Support Teachers
- Clinical Nurse Consultant
- Hospital School Teacher
- Back on Track Consultant (where relevant)
- Parent Advocate or consultant (optional)
- Parents (optional)



## The First meeting

- Consider the child's and family's desire regarding **level of disclosure** to staff and students
- Discuss the **child's current condition and treatment**
- Consider the **medical, social and educational implications for the child.**



- Gather information to formulate a **health care plan.**
- Consider the **impact** of the diagnosis on the wider school community
- **Plan the disclosure** of the news to the school community and put **support** in place for their possible reactions.
- Arrange a time for another **meeting** within two weeks.



Knowing is not enough; we must apply.  
Willing is not enough; we must do"

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Vision without action is a dream. Action without vision is simply passing the time. Action with Vision is making a positive difference.

Joel Barker

