

Australian students ranked among world's worst behaved



Australian students have been ranked among the worst behaved in the world, according to the latest international education results.

The findings come from the 2025 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), which tested around 760,000 15-year-old students across 91 countries.

While Australian students continued to perform relatively strongly academically, their classroom behaviour was a major concern.

Australian students reported higher levels of classroom disruption than the OECD average across every measure assessed.

Around 34 per cent said their classmates did not listen to what the teacher said, compared with 29 per cent across the OECD.

Meanwhile, 41 per cent said most science lessons were noisy and disordered, compared with just 31 per cent internationally.

Australian students were also twice as likely as the OECD average to report skipping at least one day of school during the two weeks before the assessment, with 44 per cent admitting they had done so.

Bullying was another major issue, with only nine of the 91 countries recording higher levels of bullying than Australia.



The results come despite Australian students ranking 11th globally in both reading and science, and 17th in maths.

Experts say the combination of strong academic performance and poor classroom behaviour paints a mixed picture of Australian education.



Australian students have recorded their worst maths and reading scores on record. Picture: Getty Images

Australian Council for Educational Research director Dr Jonas Bertling said „classroom discipline should be a concern because disruption can reduce the amount of time available for productive teaching”.

The findings have also prompted calls for schools to address distractions from technology, with Education Minister Jason Clare suggesting Australian classrooms may need a "digital detox".

Australia's education results have been declining in some areas, with maths and reading scores falling significantly over the past two decades.

According to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Singapore consistently ranks at the top globally for student behaviour, discipline, and academic performance.

That it is because students in regions like Singapore and East Asia are raised with a strong cultural emphasis on respect for teachers and structured learning environments.

Teaching is viewed as an honourable profession, and schools maintain high standards for classroom etiquette and accountability.

Moreover, mainstream disciplinary measures, such as detention and structured corrective actions, help keep classrooms orderly.

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