

Student Attendance

St Joseph's Primary Nambour



PROCEDURE

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this procedure is to describe St Joseph's Primary School's approach to the consistent roll marking and management of student attendance to meet legislative requirements and sector standards.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Principal	• coordinate and implement this procedure • manage student attendance in consultation with the school community • engage with families to proactively promote high levels of student attendance • engage with families to build an understanding of the importance of informing the school on student absences as soon as possible to ensure student safety • monitor attendance weekly using the Business Intelligence tool • monitor non-attendance and re-engage students in partnership with parents/legal guardians ensure compliance of data entry in alignment with eMinerva (BCE's IT system) requirements • ensure staff are made aware of the BCE Student Attendance policy, the Responding to Student Attendance Concerns procedure and this procedure • ensure a copy of this procedure is provided to relief staff (i.e., published on school portal) • record and report attendance data in annual reviews • ensure relief staff are entered into WSS timesheets in order to gain access to eMinerva or are added to the eMinerva exception list • ensure eMinerva training is part of the induction process for new staff and • ensure staff complete eMinerva training annually
Teachers (or delegate) with roll-marking responsibilities	• ensure rolls are marked and data is entered into eMinerva in an accurate and timely manner, at least twice per day, specifically at the beginning of the day and after second break • follow up on eMinerva notifications of any unexplained absences • inform Principal or delegate of unexplained absence • inform Principal of more than three consecutive days of absence with an explanation or if a pattern of explained non-attendance becomes evident

Role	Responsibilities
Administration staff	• inform Principal or delegate of morning and afternoon unmarked rolls on the same day as roll marking • inform Principal or delegate of any student absent from school without explanation and ensure same day follow up and reporting to parent/legal guardians on the day of the absence using ParentSMS in a timely manner to allow for a response • where there is no response to the ParentSMS notification and follow up of unexplained absence, make at least one phone call to a different emergency contact prior to the end of the school day. Continue each day until the absence is explained and refer to Principal or delegate

3. Requirements

3.1 General requirements

Compulsory schooling

The Queensland Government states that “each parent of a child who is of compulsory school age has the legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attends a school, on every school day for the educational program in which the child is enrolled, unless the parent has a reasonable excuse.

A child should be enrolled in and attend school in the year that they turn compulsory school age (six years and six months).”

The Compulsory Schooling Phase:

- starts the year a child turns 6 or starts Prep
- ends when the child turns 16 or finishes Year 10, whichever occurs first.

During this phase, the legal guardian has a legal obligation to ensure their child attends school every day.

The Compulsory Participation Phase:

- starts the year the child stops being of compulsory school age (i.e., reaches the age of 16 or completes Year 10).
- ends when the child:
 - gains a Senior Certificate, Certificate III or Certificate IV *or*
 - has participated in eligible options for two years after the completion of the Compulsory Schooling Phase *or*
 - turns 17 years of age.

During this phase, legal guardians have a legal obligation to ensure their child meets the attendance requirements of the eligible option of their choice.

Roll-marking

Our school has a responsibility to record student attendance and respond to instances of irregular attendance. Staff use the eMinerva system to record student attendance and absences. It is important for our school to investigate the patterns and underlying causes of non-attendance so that appropriate strategies addressing the specific type of absenteeism can be implemented. Where a pattern of irregular attendance is identified, schools follow the PROCEDURE: Student Attendance - Responding to Student Attendance

Concerns.

Our school, and by virtue of their employment, our teachers, are legally required to monitor and record attendance of students in their care on a daily basis, whether absent or present in class, on excursion or at a school-based activity.

Student attendance level

Students, parents/legal guardians, and staff will work together to ensure all students meet the school expectation of 90% or above attendance and zero unexplained absences.

90% attendance equates to 5 days absence per term and 10 days absence per semester.

3.2 Procedure

Activity	Requirement
Attendance Marking	- Attendance will be marked for all students each morning and afternoon (after second break) by class teachers - The Student Services School Officer will check this has been done for classes at 9.15am and 2.15 pm daily - A phone call will be made to the teacher if the class roll is not marked on time - An email will be sent to the teacher for a class roll not marked correctly - The Principal will be advised of unmarked and incorrectly marked rolls - Incorrectly marked rolls will be corrected by the teacher responsible for the class.
Present Categories in eMinerva	- Students who are: - in class will be marked 'Present – In Class' - in an alternate learning activity will be marked 'Present – Alternate Learning Activity' - with Guidance Counsellors will be marked as 'Present – In-School Appointment' - in sick bay will have their attendance category changed to 'Present – In Sick Bay' by the office personnel - participating in activities (excursion; camps etc.) will be marked accordingly by the teacher responsible for the activity - These attendance categories must not be changed, unless the student is present in class and then the category should be changed to 'Present – In Class' - Students will only be marked as 'Present – Not Required to Attend' upon instruction from School Leadership.
Absent Categories in eMinerva	- Students who are: - not in class, and notification has not been received

Activity	Requirement
	from a legal guardian, will be marked 'Absent – Unexplained' ○ not in class, and notification has been received from a Legal Guardian, will be marked 'Absent – Explained' • When marking the roll, if teachers have received written information from the legal guardian regarding a student's absence from school, the teacher will enter the details (including absence category) into a log in eMinerva • If the parent/legal guardian has informed the office of the absence, the school officer will enter these details into a log in eMinerva • Notified staff should enter any information regarding future planned absences of students by entering a Notified Absence into e-Minerva • Any student absent from school without explanation requires same day reporting to parents/legal guardians on the day of the absence • If a student is away for more than three consecutive days of explained absence not previously communicated with school Leadership(or earlier if concerned) a member of the student support team will contact the parent/legal guardian for a pastoral conversation • If a student has been previously marked 'Present at school' but they are not in class without permission, the teacher is to contact the office and advise that the student is not present. Office personnel will then inform school leadership that the student is missing. They will then attempt to locate the student and respond in accordance with the school's Student Behaviour Support Plan • Students will only be marked as 'Absent – Not Required to Attend', 'Absent – Truant' or 'Absent – Internal Suspension' upon instruction from school leadership.
Unexplained Absences	• A notification will be sent to the student's parent/legal guardian on the same day once an unexplained absence has been identified. The delegated staff member will follow up any unexplained absences by contacting the student's parent/legal guardian via ParentSMS in a timely manner to allow the follow up of non-response on the same day of absence • If confirmation of the notification of an unexplained absence by the parent/legal guardian has not been received by midday, a follow up phone call to the parent/legal guardian on the same day as the unexplained absence should be made. If there is still no response to the initial text message notification and follow up, a phone call should be made to an additional emergency contact listed on eMinerva. Continue this process

Activity	Requirement
	the next day if absence remains unexplained. • If there is no response from the parent/legal guardian or to the follow up on the day of unexplained absence, schools must continue to follow up with the parent/legal guardian until the unexplained absence is explained even if the student has returned to school. • If a child protection order is in place, then the Child Safety Officer should be notified as well as the legal guardian. • Past unexplained absences are indicated by the red Unexplained Absence Alert icon on class rolls. When the class teacher receives written explanation of the absence from the student's legal guardian, they will update the absence category and enter details into eMinerva with the details.
Late Arrivals	• A student is considered to have arrived late any time after the 8.35 am bell • Parent/legal guardians will be notified of any unexplained late arrival • All students arriving late will sign in at the office and will be given a late slip. This slip needs to be presented to the teacher when arriving in class. If they do not have a late slip, they are to be sent to the office to sign in • If class teachers observe a student has made a habit of arriving late, or is late for three consecutive days, they will contact the student's legal guardian as per this procedure
Early Departures	• A student is considered to be leaving early any time before 2.40pm. All students leaving early will be signed out through the office by a parent/legal guardian.
SMS Messages	• Unexplained Absences: An SMS message will be sent to the student's parent/legal guardian on the same day once an unexplained absence has been identified. Such communication will be a timely manner to allow parent/legal parent response and for the school to follow up with the parent/legal guardian via phone or email on the same day as the unexplained absence if there is no response to the initial text message • If there is no response from the SMS message a phone call to a different emergency contact number in the eMinerva contact list must be made prior to the end of the school day • Unexplained Late Arrivals: An SMS message will be sent to a student's legal guardian advising of students who have arrived late • Any incorrect messages caused by incorrect roll-marking will be made known to the Principal or delegate. The teacher will follow up by telephoning the student's parent/legal guardian.

Activity	Requirement
Non-Marking of Electronic Roll	- If the school computer system is offline, hard copies of all class rolls will be provided by the office. Once the system is online the class teacher will mark the roll in eMinerva so that the records are correct. This may be done the next day if necessary. Only administrators can amend marked rolls in consultation with the Principal or delegate - In the event of an evacuation, hard copies of rolls will be taken to the evacuation area to be marked by class teachers. Class teachers will advise the Principal or delegate of any unexplained absentees - During a lockdown, the roll will not be marked.
Activities	- An activity will be entered into eMinerva for students attending excursions, camps, and other school-based activities - A yellow alert will appear next to the student's name on class rolls to indicate the student has a timetable clash. The activity will be marked by the staff member responsible for the event, e.g., 'Present – Work Study'; 'Present – Excursion'. This attendance category will inherit through the rest of the student's timetable for the day - These attendance categories must not be changed, unless the student is present at school and then the category should be changed to 'Present – In Class'.
Relief and supervising staff	- Relief staff will have access to the school portal and eMinerva using their own BCE username and password and are to mark attendance in eMinerva for each class they are supervising - Teaching staff conducting supervision will mark attendance in eMinerva for the class they are supervising in accordance with this procedure.
Part-time Students	Part-time students will sign in and out of the school office on arrival or departure as per arrangements made.
Mobile Attendance Application	Teaching staff wishing to use this application can access it via their school portal and entering their BCE username and password. The User Guide – Mobile Attendance Application should be read prior to use

4. Compliance Monitoring

Non-compliance with this procedure is a breach of the Catholic Education Archdiocese of Brisbane Code of Conduct. Compliance with this procedure will be monitored by:

Role	Compliance responsibilities
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Senior ICT Engagement Officer	- co-ordinates training and provides resources for relevant staff in regard to their roll marking obligations and processes - on request, provides reports of anomalies in roll marking practices to Senior Manager – Student Diversity & Wellbeing.
Senior Manager – Student Diversity & Wellbeing	- monitors attendance reports in Power BI and escalates concerns to the relevant Senior Leader - School Progress and Performance - provides system attendance data summary to Learning Services Executive and Senior Leaders - School Progress and Performance each term - report non-compliance with this procedure to the Head of School Progress and Performance for consideration and remedial action.

5. Associated Documents

- 5.1 Procedure: Student Attendance - Responding to Student Attendance Concerns
- 5.2 Attendance – Description of Attendance Categories
- 5.3 Attendance – How to Bulk Late Arrival or Early Departure
- 5.4 Attendance – Accessing Another Teacher’s Roll
- 5.5 Attendance – How to Manage Unexplained Absences
- 5.6 Security – Relief Staff
- 5.7 Attendance - How to Mark Attendance (Teaching and Administration Staff)
- 5.8 Student Attendance policy.

6. Definitions

Unexplained Absence	An unexplained absence occurs when the student is not present at school and the parent/legal guardian does not contact the school.
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Document Control

Procedure title	Student Attendance Roll Marking (Primary)
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