

## SMS COMMUNICATIONS

Balcatta Senior High School uses a Short Message Service (SMS) to send text messages to parents/guardians/caregivers to notify them of an unexplained absence or late arrival of their child. SMS will also be used to provide information to parents about school community events.

Each time your child is absent when an explanation has not already been provided to the school, you will receive an SMS. If your child is absent and a reason has been provided before the time the SMS is due to be sent, you will not receive a text message. This system has been shown to assist in making schools (and parents) more aware of where students are and assists in improving student attendance. These factors will enhance learning opportunities for all students and contribute to their safety.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SMS COMMUNICATIONS

#### As a parent, what do I need to do?

If you know your child will be absent, please call the school well before the set SMS sending time which will be 10.30 am every day. If you do not contact the school, the SMS system will automatically send you an SMS advising that your child is not at school.

#### How do I reply to an SMS message from the school?

When you receive an SMS about an absence, reply to the number and make sure that the text includes the student name, date of absence and reason for absence. Do not call the number as it is an automated system using a virtual number.

The number is **0409 686 684**

This is a sample of how you can reply to a text message

***Jane Citizen, 11 Feb, Sick***

#### What if my mobile number changes?

Please notify the school *immediately* if your mobile number changes.

#### What if there is a custodial order preventing contact?

The parent/guardian with legal custody of the child/ren must provide evidence to the school in the form of a court order for the school to legally deny a parent/guardian access to any information about their child/ren.

#### What if the parents live separately and both wish to receive messages?

The parents/guardians must contact the school and the records will be changed so both parents receive an SMS.

To avoid receiving a text message from the school, please let the school know by 10:30 am if your child/ren will be absent.

You can ring the school any time after hours (9345 8228 – direct), when you will be able to leave a voice message.

## DO YOU KNOW HOW ABSENCES CAN IMPACT ON YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION?

Period of Absence (Years 1 to 10)	Rate of Attendance	Equivalent School Missed	Level of Educational Risk
Average of 5 Days per term	90%	1 Year	Classified as regular attendance
1 Day per week	80%	2 Years	Indicated At-Risk
1.5 Days a week	70%	3 Years	Moderate Risk
2 Days Per Week	60%	4 Years	Moderate Risk
3 Days Per Week	40%	6 Years	Severe Risk
5 Weeks Per Term	50%	5 Years	Severe Risk