



OUR COMMUNICATIONS TO YOU BY TEXT MESSAGE

Benowa State High School is bringing you the next generation in school-parent communications. Personalised SMS text messages sent direct to and from your mobile phone are the best solution for student safety, attendance management, and significant event reminders.

Benefiting You and Your Child

1. *You have the right to know that your child is safe.*

If your child has not arrived at school, you need to know. A personalised text message will be sent by the school to your mobile phone. This is the fastest, most reliable way of reaching you, discretely, wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

2. *Your child deserves the best possible chance of success.*

Regular attendance is a key factor in school success. If your child shows any sign of poor attendance, SMS text messaging will immediately inform you that a problem may exist, allowing swift intervention.

3. *You deserve the most responsive delivery system available.*

Letters are slow and can be intercepted. Phone calls can be intrusive and may not reach parents in time. A text message direct to your mobile phone is fast, effective and discrete.

4. *You must have immediate notification in times of crisis.*

There may be times when the school will need to reach a large number of parents instantly. It could be because the school bus is late returning from an excursion, or it might be something much more serious. In any case, a broadcast SMS text message is by far the most effective solution.

5. *You deserve a communication tool which fits your busy lifestyle.*

Sending a text message to the school is the most cost and time effective option for busy parents. The message is sent from wherever you are located directly to the Absence Office.

Working Together For Our Children: What Parents Must Do

Your child's school is taking important steps to benefit your child. This is a shared responsibility, and parents must also help the school.

1. *Keep your mobile phone details up to date.*

Make sure the school has your current mobile phone number, and notify the school immediately if this number changes.

2. *Notify the school in advance when your child is absent.*

If you notify the school as soon as you know your child will be absent, the school will know your child is safe, and will not need to contact you. You may report an absence by either telephoning our 24 hour absence line 5582 7360 or replying to a text message or sending a note with the student on their return to school. If a student is arriving late they must report to the Student Absence Window and present a note with an explanation for their lateness. Students are reminded that punctuality is expected at all times. Late arrivals will be recorded on reports.

3. *Respond to messages from the school.*

If you receive an absence message from the school, please respond via return SMS. The school needs to know why your child is absent and we would ask you to please ensure you reply with the full name of the student.

If you don't have a mobile phone...

Details of low-cost phone plans ideal for parents who want to benefit from the new system are available from mobile phone providers. The school will maintain its existing contact methods for parents who do not have mobile phones.