



MARYMOUNT

College

Attendance Policy and Procedures



lifelong life-giving learning

PROCEDURE: Student Attendance



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Contents

1. PURPOSE.....	2
Student attendance goal	2
Acceptable reasons for student absences are:.....	3
Unacceptable reasons for absence are:	3
2. RESPONSIBILITIES	4
2.2 Roles and responsibilities	4
2.21 Principals Responsibilities.....	4
2.22 Staff Roll-marking Responsibilities	5
Role of the Pastoral Teacher: Attendance.....	6
Role of Classroom Teacher: Attendance	7
Role of Activity Teacher: Attendance	8
2.23 Legal Guardian Responsibilities.....	9
Providing Absence Notifications.....	10
2.24 Student Responsibilities	11
3. PROCEDURE	12
3.1 Present categories in eMinerva.....	12
3.2 Absent Categories in eMinerva	13
3.3 Unexplained Absences.....	14
3.4 Late Arrivals	14
3.5 Early Departures	16
3.6 SMS Messages	16
3.7 Non-Marking of Electronic Roll	16
3.8 Activities	17
3.9 Attendance Marking Training.....	17
3.10 Relief and supervising staff.....	17
3.11 Part-time Students	17
3.12 Mobile Attendance Application.....	17
3.13 Exam Block.....	17
4. PERFORMANCE	18
5. LEGAL OBLIGATIONS.....	18
Compulsory Schooling and Compulsory Participation	18
The Compulsory Schooling Phase.....	18
The Compulsory Participation Phase.....	18
6. Frequently Asked Questions.....	19

PROCEDURE: Student Attendance



MARYMOUNT
College



1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to describe Marymount College's approach to the consistent management of student attendance to meet legislative requirements and sector standards.

Marymount College recognises that every day of attendance in school contributes towards a student's learning and that maximising school attendance enhances academic outcomes. Research shows direct correlations between poor attendance and student disengagement, exposure to 'at risk' behaviours and poor academic, employment and social outcomes.

Marymount College is committed to promoting the key messages of the 'Every Day Counts' campaign:

- All children should be enrolled at school and attend school every day.
- Schools should monitor, communicate and implement strategies to improve regular school attendance.
- Truancy and chronic absenteeism can place a student in an unsafe situation and impact their future employability and life choices.
- Attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community.

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.

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 goal

Students, 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:

- 3 days absence per term
- 6 days absence per semester
- 12 days absence per year

Red	Chronic Absenteeism – below 90%
Light Green	Regular Attendance – Above 90%- below 95%
Dark Green	Aspirational Attendance – 95% and above

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Acceptable reasons for student absences are:

- Illness
- Family trauma or bereavement
- Events of cultural significance
- Participation in school organised activities, e.g. work experience
- Representation in elite sporting or cultural activities e.g. South Coast Sporting Trials

Unacceptable reasons for absence are:

- Truancy
- Shopping expeditions with or without parent or carer
- Helping at home or at parent/caregiver's place of work
- Part-time or casual work (including travel to or from work)
- Appointments which could be made out of school hours (e.g. haircuts, driving lessons, dentist etc.)
- Staying home to study/complete assessment/homework
- Family holidays
- Birthdays



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Attendance Matters

every student, on time, every day

Missing just 2 days a month from school amounts to 4 weeks of learning lost a year. That's a whole year of lost learning from Prep to Year 10! Monitor attendance trends regularly to make sure absences aren't adding up.

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Attendance records are required as part of a school's Workplace Health and Safety requirements and can be a critical factor in identifying serious student protection concerns.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

2.2 Roles and responsibilities

Our College has a responsibility to record student attendance and respond to instances of irregular attendance. 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. Refer to document titled Marymount Attendance and Improvement Strategies.

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

Legal guardians of children have a legal obligation, as set out in the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, to ensure a child is enrolled at and attends school.

Class rolls, whether electronic or paper based, can be required as evidence in court and assist in establishing that a school has met their common law duty of care to students. Attendance records are required as part of a school's Workplace Health and Safety requirements and can be a critical factor in identifying serious student protection concerns. In addition, student attendance records are used for student reporting, fee allocation and government reporting.

2.21 Principals Responsibilities

- 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
- Monitor non-attendance and re-engage students in partnership with legal guardians
- Ensure compliance of data entry in alignment with eMinerva requirements
- Ensure staff are made aware of the BCE student attendance policy and this procedure and 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
- Ensure eMinerva training is part of the induction process for new staff and annual training for existing staff



2.22 Staff Roll-marking Responsibilities

ALL STAFF

- Ensure data is entered into eMinerva in an accurate and timely manner, at the beginning of Pastoral Care and each lesson/period and for activities.
- Follow up on eMinerva notifications of unexplained absences.
- Inform Head of Year of 3+ days unexplained absence and 3+ unexplained consecutive lessons missed.
- To ensure the Marymount College Attendance Policy and Procedures are clearly communicated to all Legal Guardians and students via the College Website, assemblies, newsletters, enrolment package and Parent Portal.
- To monitor student attendance through roll-marking and BI tool. Notify Head of Year of any concerns.
- To maintain a welcoming, safe and supportive school environment that promotes student engagement with learning, student wellbeing and positive relationships.
- When marking the roll, if teachers have received written information (note or email) from the legal guardian regarding a student's absence from school, the teacher will advise SAO and a Student Administration Officer will enter the details (including absence category) into a log in eMinerva.
- If a student has been previously marked 'present at school' but they are not in class (without permission), **the teacher is to email SBURSAO@bne.catholic.edu.au that the student is not present.** A member of SAO or reception will then attempt to locate the student who will be dealt with according to the school's student behaviour support plan. Whoever actions will 'reply all'.

HEADS OF YEAR

- To investigate the patterns and underlying causes of non-attendance so that appropriate support strategies can be implemented.
- To discuss individual attendance concerns with the student and/or Legal Guardian and offer support to Legal Guardian and student when attendance has fallen under expectation.
- To notify the relevant authorities if efforts to support the Legal Guardian and student to improve attendance has been unsuccessful.
- Heads of Year who receive communication from parents should advise SAO who will enter any information regarding future planned absences of students by entering a notified absence into eMinerva.
- Contact will be made by the Head of Year if a student has frequent, but not consecutive absences.

SAO STAFF

- Any student absent from school without explanation requires same day follow up and reporting to legal guardians on the day of the absence. At Marymount College, this notification is made by SMS (if absent) to the student's main contact by the SAO.
- If the legal guardian has informed the student administration office of the absence, the Student Administration Officer will enter these details into a log in eMinerva.

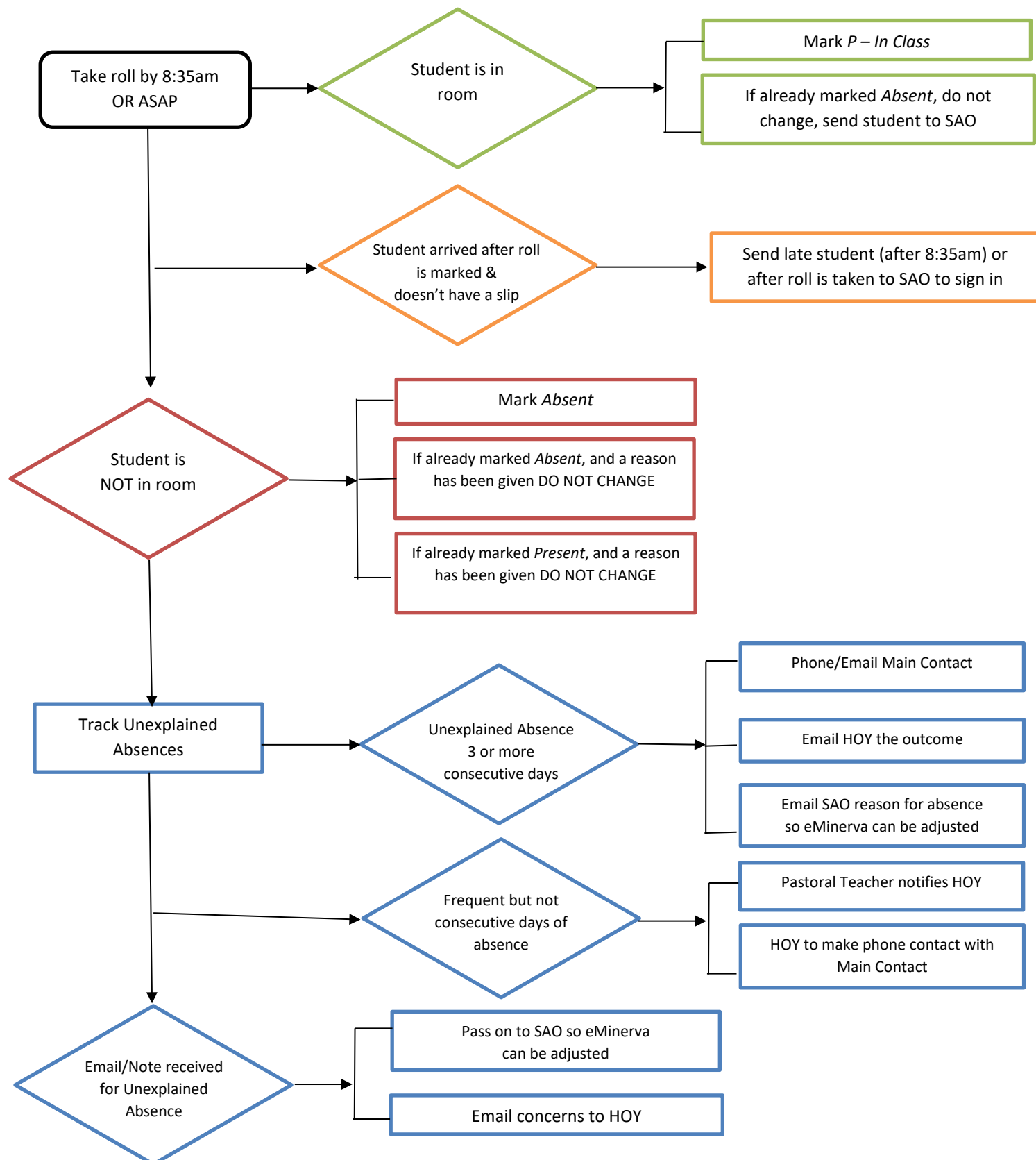
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Role of the Pastoral Teacher: Attendance



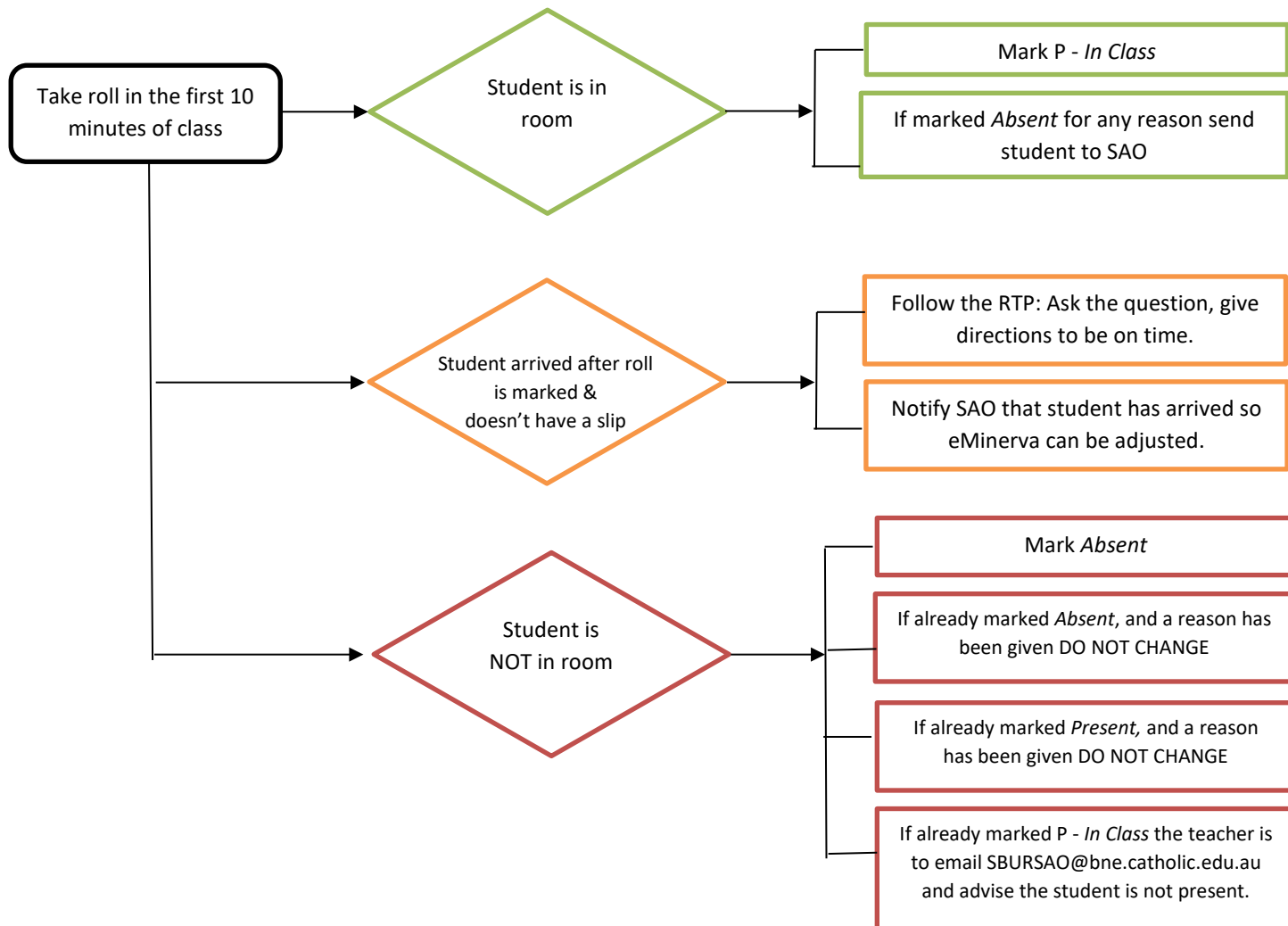
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Role of Classroom Teacher: Attendance



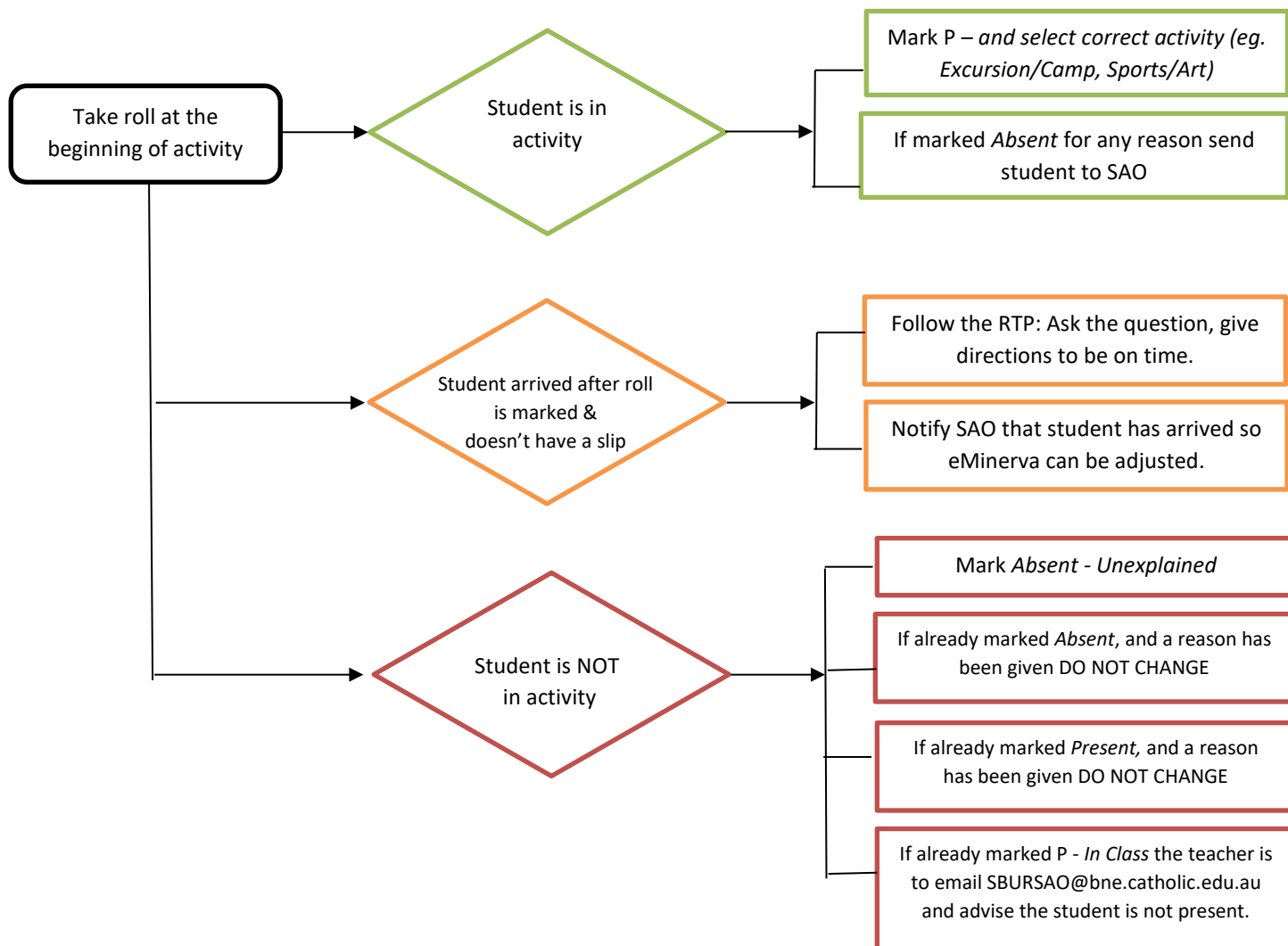
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Role of Activity Teacher: Attendance





Parents must seek approval from the Principal if your child is to be absent for an extended period (longer than three days of consecutive absence). (See page 19)

2.23 Legal Guardian Responsibilities

- To ensure your child is enrolled and attends school. This is a legal obligation, as set out in the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.
- To make a written commitment to meet the Marymount College attendance goal upon enrolment of your child.
- To ensure your child attends school for the whole day on every scheduled school day unless:
 - Your child is too sick to leave the home or has an infectious disease or an injury preventing movement around the school.
 - A medical or dental appointment that could not occur out of school hours.
 - The College is provided with another genuine and acceptable reason preventing your child's attendance.
- To provide a satisfactory explanation for all absences on or before the morning of the day of absence.
- To ensure that your child attends compulsory school events including:
 - College Masses
 - Sporting carnivals
 - Camps
 - Retreats
 - Marymount Day
- To provide a prompt response to any text message, email or letter received regarding your child's absence from school, even if you think an error has been made.
- To seek approval from the Principal if your child is to be absent for an extended period (longer than three days of consecutive absence).
- To contact school support staff (Head of Year, Guidance Counsellors or Assistant Principal Pastoral) if your child is reluctant or refusing to attend school.
- To initiate or attend support meetings to improve your child's school attendance.
- To provide a dated and signed note, notify via Parent Portal attendance, BCE Connect Attendance explaining any reason for your child's late arrival at school.
 - To not provide your child with the username or password for accessing your parent portal.
- To provide a dated and signed note, notify via Parent Portal attendance, BCE Connect Attendance if your child is required to leave school early. (Please note that for student protection purposes, students in Year 7 – Year 9 require a Legal Guardian or Legal Guardian approved delegate to collect from outside Student Reception if their child is to leave school early.)
- To ensure that emergency contact information for your child is up-to-date.
- To plan holidays in school holiday time, not term time.

PROCEDURE: Student Attendance



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Providing Absence Notifications

This is important for the safety and wellbeing of all students. When a student cannot attend school for any reason, it is expected that the legal guardian will notify Student Reception by 8:00am on the day of absence.

It is College preference that ALL absence notifications are received by one of the methods below:

1. **Parent Portal:** Click on Report Student Absence
2. **BCE Connect App:** Absences
3. **In Person:** verbally or via a hand-written letter by the parent or carer. This may take the form of a medical certificate if the child has been absent for multiple days with illness.

The screenshot shows the 'Report Student Absence' form in the Marymount College Parent Portal. The form is titled 'Report Student Absence' and includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Marymount College > My School > Pages > attendance'. Below the title, it says 'Please fill in the form below to let us know if any of your children will be absent from school'. The form contains several fields: 'Name *' with a text box for 'Parent Name', 'Phone Number *' with a text box for 'Parent Mobile', and 'Children Absent' with checkboxes for 'Child 1 Name' (checked) and 'Child 2 Name'. A 'Details' section for 'Child 1 Name' includes a 'Reason for Absence *' with radio buttons for 'Illness' (selected), 'Appointment', 'Personal / Family', 'Transport Issues', and 'Other please specify'. It also has 'Start of Absence' and 'End of Absence' date pickers, both set to 'Aug 12, 2019 All Day'. A 'Summary' box on the right shows 'Child 1's absence' from 'Start of school day 12 August 2019' to 'End of school day 12 August 2019'. At the bottom left is a 'Send Email' button.

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Students must ensure days absent are explained by their Legal Guardian



2.24 Student Responsibilities

- To attend school for the whole school day, every day and be on time for all timetabled classes
- To not leave school during school hours without a parent permission note and approval from Head of Year via their signature, and without obtaining an early departure slip from Student Administration Office (SAO).
- To always report to SAO if arriving to school later than 8:35am.
- To ensure work missed during any periods or days absent from school is completed.
- To monitor own attendance at the end of each term.
- To ensure days absent are explained by your Legal Guardian.
- To discuss day(s) absent with your class/Pastoral Care teacher if either attending regularly or getting your Legal Guardian's notification for an absence is difficult.

EXAM BLOCKS

- Students from Year 11 & 12 will only be at school for required exams throughout scheduled exam blocks and during the external assessment period.
- Students may have home study time when not attending for an exam or outstanding/incomplete assessment
- Students are not to be sighted in public areas (eg. shopping centres) unless with a parent/guardian during school hours for the exam block.

PROCEDURE: Student Attendance



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3. PROCEDURE

- Attendance will be marked for all students each morning during Pastoral Care class by Pastoral Care teachers
- Attendance will be marked each lesson for all subject classes throughout the duration of the school day by subject teachers
- Attendance will be marked for all activities by the teacher responsible for the activity at its commencement
- Student Administration Officers will check this has been done for Pastoral Care classes at 9.15am.
- Deputy Principal will check subject classes have been marked daily
- Communication will be made to the Pastoral Care teacher, Deputy Principal and Assistant Principal – Pastoral, if the Pastoral Care roll is not marked on time
- The Deputy Principal and Assistant Principal Pastoral will follow up with Subject teacher for a subject roll not marked
- The Deputy Principal will be advised of unmarked and incorrectly marked rolls
- Incorrectly marked rolls will be corrected by the teacher responsible for the class or on their behalf by a member of the Student Administration Team

3.1 Present categories in eMinerva

Students who are:	Will be marked:
In class	'Present – In Class'
Attending TAFE or work experience	'Present – Work/Study' by the VET Coordinator or a Career Development Officer
In Learning Support	'Present – Alternate Learning Activity'
In an alternate learning activity	'Present – Alternate Learning Activity'
With Guidance Counsellors	'Present – In-School Appointment'
In Sick Bay	'Present – In Sick Bay' by the Student Administration Officers
Participating in activities (excursion; camps etc.)	'Present' will be marked accordingly by the teacher responsible for the activity, who must select the appropriate category for the activity

Students will only be marked as 'Present – Not Required to Attend' upon instruction from College Leadership

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3.2 Absent Categories in eMinerva

Students who are:	Will be marked:
Not in class, and notification has <u>not</u> been received from a legal guardian	'absent – unexplained'
Not in class, and notification has been received from a legal guardian to advise the student is unwell	'absent – illness'
Not in class, and notification has been received from a legal guardian to advise the student has an appointment	'absent – appointment'
Not in class, and notification has been received from a legal guardian to advise the student is absent for personal or family reasons	'absent – personal/family'

Students will only be marked as 'absent – not required to attend', 'absent – truant' or 'absent – internal suspension' upon instruction from College Leadership



PROCEDURE: Student Attendance



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All students arriving after 8:35am will sign in at SAO and will be given a late slip.



3.3 Unexplained Absences

An unexplained absence occurs when the student is not present at school and the Legal Guardian does not contact the school.

- A notification will be sent to the student's legal guardian by approximately 9.30 am each day. The pastoral care teacher or Head of Year will follow up any unexplained absences by contacting the student's legal guardian.
- Past unexplained absences are indicated by the red unexplained absence alert icon on class rolls. When the Student Attendance Officer receives written explanation of the absence from the student's legal guardian they will update the absence category and enter details into eMinerva.
- If a child protection order is in place, then the Child Safety Officer must be notified as well as the legal guardian.

3.4 Late Arrivals

A student is considered to have arrived late any time after the Pastoral Care Teacher has marked the morning roll.

- All students arriving after 8:35am will sign in at SAO 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 student administration office (SAO) to sign in.
- If a student presents late to a subject class and does not have a:
 - late slip or
 - note from a teacher explaining why they are late or
 - signed Record Bookthey are to be sent to SAO to sign in.
- If pastoral care 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. Head of Year is advised outcome of the contact.

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Students leaving early will provide a note from their legal guardian to their Head of Year. The Head of Year will sign that they have sighted this note.



3.5 Early Departures

A student is considered to be leaving early any time before 2.57pm.

- All students leaving early will provide a note from the legal guardian to their Head of Year. The Head of Year will sign that they have sighted this note.
- Students must show their signed note to the class teacher when it is time to leave. Students will NOT be called to leave over the PA or collected by SAO staff.
- Only students who have notes signed by their Head of Year (or Deputy Principal/Assistant Principal Pastoral) will be given permission to sign out in SAO.

3.6 SMS Messages

- Unexplained Absences: An SMS message will be sent to the student's legal guardian at approximately 9.30am each day advising of any 'Unexplained' absences.
- Any incorrect messages caused by incorrect roll-marking will be made known to the Deputy Principal.

3.7 Non-Marking of Electronic Roll

- If the school computer system is offline, hard copies of all Pastoral Care and class rolls will be provided by the Student Administration Officer. Once the system is online the Student Administration Officer will mark the roll 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 Deputy Principal/Assistant Principal Pastoral.
- During a lockdown or evacuation, the roll will not be marked. Students are head counted.

PROCEDURE: Student Attendance



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Red	Chronic Absenteeism – below 90%
Light Green	Regular Attendance – Above 90%- below 95%
Dark Green	Aspirational Attendance – 95% and above

3.8 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**, if the student is present at school send the student to SAO.

3.9 Attendance Marking Training

- School leadership will ensure all staff receive a written copy of the Attendance Policy and Procedures document and will review this document annually.
- A copy of the Attendance Policy and Procedures document will be included in Relief staff folders. School leadership will provide attendance marking training to teaching staff annually.

3.10 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.

3.11 Part-time Students

- Part time students will sign in and out of SAO on arrival or departure as per arrangements made.

3.12 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.
- NB. Mobile Attendance Application is not to be used for marking the morning Pastoral Care roll.

3.13 Exam Block

- Students taking an exam will have their exams recorded as an activity and they will be marked when present for their exam.



4. PERFORMANCE

The school will perform high-level checks of this procedure annually and a detailed review at least every two years.

5. LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

“Parents of children of compulsory school age have a legal obligation to ensure that their children are enrolled in school and attend for every day of the educational program in which they are enrolled.

Parents of students in the post compulsory phase have a legal obligation to ensure that these students participate full-time in an eligible option.”

Compulsory Schooling and Compulsory Participation

The Queensland Government’s education policy states that:

“Parents of children of compulsory school age have a legal obligation to ensure that their children are enrolled in school and attend for every day of the educational program in which they are enrolled.

Parents of students in the post compulsory phase have a legal obligation to ensure that these students participate full-time in an eligible option.”

Students have two phases of schooling: The Compulsory Schooling Phase and The Compulsory Participation Phase.

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



6. Frequently Asked Questions

1. When a student has a discrepancy in their attendance or has a part day absence, Marymount College will take the following actions:
 - The student will be informed of the discrepancy or part day absence and will report to SAO or the relevant Pastoral Leader to explain the discrepancy or absence.
 - Where it is necessary for further clarification, the parent or carer will be contacted by the Head of Year (by email or telephone call) to determine if there is a reasonable excuse for the discrepancy or part day absence (Director General's Guidelines ss176 and 239 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006).
 - Records of contact with parents and carers regarding absences will be recorded on Engage.
2. When a student is absent without explanation for a period between 1 to 3 days, Marymount College will take the following actions:
 - The Pastoral Care Teacher speak to the student and may contact home to investigate the reason for the student's absence, and offer support if required.
 - The Pastoral Care Teacher will notify SAO to adjust the student's attendance records if required.
 - Records of contact with parents and carers regarding absences will be recorded in Engage.
3. When a student is absent for three or more days or when a pattern of absences has been identified, Marymount College will take the following actions:
 - The parent or carer will be contacted by the Pastoral Care Teacher (by telephone call) to
 - Determine if there is a reasonable excuse for the absence/s (Director General's Guidelines ss176 and 239 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.
 - If there is no reasonable excuse for the absence, the Pastoral Care Teacher will inform the Head of Year to follow up.
 - The Head of Year will make contact with the parents and request an intervention meeting. At this intervention meeting, support strategies to enhance attendance and engagement will be offered. These include but are not limited to:
 - Working with the student to track attendance
 - Applying a reward/incentive-based program for improved attendance
 - Work with the teachers of the student to implement engagement strategies.
 - Strategies outlined in the Attendance Improvement and Engagement Plan
 - If, after three weeks, a student is still not attending school regularly, the College will follow the processes for managing student absences as outlined in the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 – SMS-PR-043. This includes:
 - Sending a letter outlining attendance requirements and the student's attendance record.
 - Possibly reporting the persistent and/or unexplained absences to:
 - Queensland Police Service
 - Department of Child safety.
 - Records of contact with parents and carers regarding absences will be recorded in Engage.

PROCEDURE: Student Attendance



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Marymount College does not support the practice of scheduling holidays during term time and does not consider the taking of a holiday during term time an authorised explanation of absence from school.

4. When truancy has been identified, Marymount College will take the following actions:

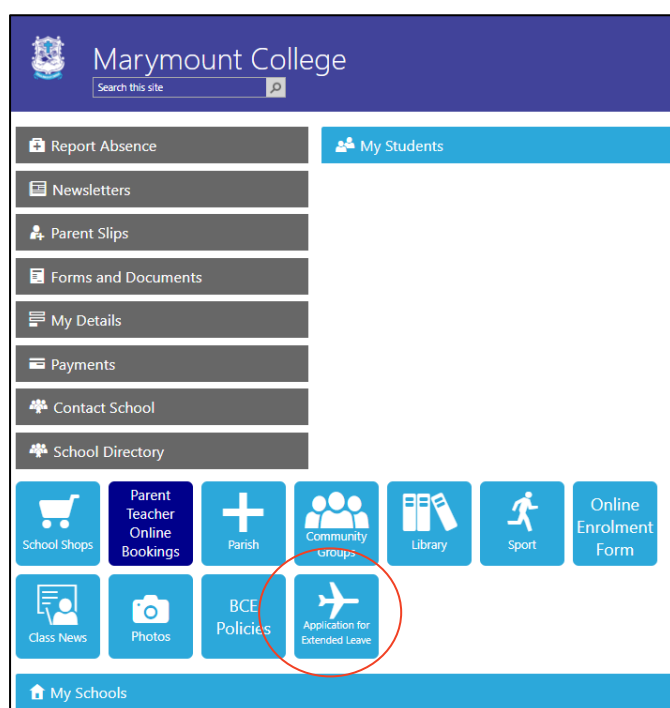
- Parents will be contacted by the appropriate Head of Year or member of the College Leadership Team to address the student's specific behaviour;
- Marymount College will respond to the student's behaviour as outlined in its Student Behaviour Support Plan.

5. Where there is prolonged absence due to illness or medical condition:

- In times of prolonged absence due to illness or a medical condition, academic support may be provided appropriate to the student's needs at the time. Students have a responsibility to request and complete any missed work and/or assessments once they have returned to school. Parents can request work from teachers to be completed at home by contacting:
 - Assistant Principal Senior Curriculum (Years 10-12)
 - Assistant Principal Junior Curriculum (Years 7-9)

6. Where holidays are scheduled during term time:

Marymount College does not support the practice of scheduling holidays during term time and does not consider the taking of a holiday during term time an authorised explanation of absence from school.



All requests for extended student absence must be made by a parent, two weeks in advance to the Principal.

1. Log into the Parent Portal
2. Select the 'Application for Extended Leave' icon
3. Complete the online form
4. You will receive an automatic email confirming your request has been received.

PROCEDURE: Student Attendance



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7. Can I check my child's attendance?

Parents can easily check their child's attendance in the Parent Portal

1. Log into the Parent Portal
2. Click on your child's photo
3. Select the heading 'Attendance'
4. The **Absences** tab will show percentages Hover over the blue pie chart for percentages
5. The **Absences-YTD** tab will show each lesson that your child has been marked absent
6. The **Absences by Month** tab will show absences each month for your child's entire enrolment at a BCE school

