

Boonah State High School



Parent Handbook

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32 Macquarie Street
PO Box 94
Boonah QLD 4310

'Conaire est Florere' – 'To Strive Is To Grow'

Phone 07 5460 6111
Email boonahshs@boonahshs.eq.edu.au
Website www.boonahshs.eq.edu.au
Office Hours 8:00am – 4:00pm
Finance Hours Tuesday – Friday 8.15am – 12.15pm

Principal
Deputy Principal – Senior Secondary
Deputy Principal – Junior Secondary

Mr Dan Marrone
Ms Kristen Murphy
Mrs Christine Hills

Guidance Officers

Mrs Andrea Schumacher/ Mrs Danielle Muir
Mrs Michelle McPherson

Head of Student Inclusion
Head of Teaching and Learning and Creative Arts
Head of Humanities and Social Sciences
Head of Trade and Industry
Head of English and Languages
Head of Science and Digital Technologies
Head of Mathematics
Head of Health and Physical Education

Mr Aaryn Brown
Mr Peter Correlje
Mr Adam Sinclair
Mr Aidan Richters
Mrs Emma Fitzpatrick
Mrs Hayley Long
Mrs Amanda Mathewson
Mr Jai YongGee

Business Manager

Mrs Linda Thomas

Industry Liaison Officer/Youth Support Coordinator/PR

Mrs Kelly Skewes

VALUES & BELIEFS

Motto: *'Conaire est Florere' – 'To Strive Is To Grow'*

Purpose Statement: Boonah State High School is a community based school that provides opportunity and access to learning experiences for all children in order to empower them in realising their full potential.

Values:

- Resilience
- Compassion
- Integrity
- Community

HISTORY

Since 1965, Boonah State High School has proudly served the Fassifern community, growing from an initial enrolment of 225 students to 600 today. The school opened its doors on March 22, 1965, with a single building—now known as A Block—constructed in late 1964 at a cost of approximately £51,000. From these modest beginnings, Boonah State High School has grown into a dynamic, future-focused learning environment.

Today, our campus features modern and well-equipped facilities, including an Assembly Hall, Administration and Library complex, Industrial Technology and Design workshops, Food and Textiles areas, Visual Art spaces, a Multimedia Centre, Science laboratories, Tuckshop with integrated learnscape, Trade Skills Centre, swimming pool, and sporting ovals.

Boonah State High School is deeply rooted in the resilient and compassionate spirit of the Boonah community. That same community spirit remains the cornerstone of our school. As a comprehensive public secondary school, we offer a diverse and inclusive curriculum that empowers students in Years 7 to 12 to reach their full potential.

AREA PROFILE

Nestled within the stunning landscapes of the Scenic Rim, the country town of Boonah offers a unique blend of natural beauty, rural heritage, and welcoming community spirit. Surrounded by world heritage listed areas, Boonah is celebrated for its picturesque valleys, vibrant arts community, and strong agricultural roots. The town retains its traditional 'High Street' charm, offering country hospitality, boutique shopping, and locally crafted art.

Boonah is ideally positioned to explore the natural attractions of South East Queensland, with panoramic lookouts and easy access to Main Range, Mt Barney, and Moogerah Peaks National Parks. Lake Moogerah, Lake Maroon, and Wyaralong Dam are also nearby—popular destinations for water sports, fishing, and family recreation.

Located 48 km south of Ipswich and 41 km west of Beaudesert, Boonah serves as the primary service hub for the surrounding rural communities, including Kalbar, Harrisville, Peak Crossing, Aratula, Mt Alford, Roadvale, Warrill View, Rosevale, Maroon, and Dugandan. Boonah State High School draws from 11 partner primary schools and is supported by an established network of Queensland Transport contracted bus routes.

Historically rooted in dairying and pig farming, the region has since evolved with a focus on cattle grazing and intensive agriculture. Boonah's heritage and rural charm continue to attract visitors, supported by a growing tourism industry featuring local wineries, farm stays, and bed-and-breakfast accommodations.

SCHOOL WORKFORCE

Boonah State High School is supported by a dedicated team of professionals who are committed to delivering high quality education and support for our students. Our staff includes 65 teaching professionals and 35 non-teaching and ancillary personnel, all working together to ensure the smooth operation and ongoing success of our school.

Our Leadership Team supports the Principal and provides strategic direction across the school. This team includes Deputy Principals, Business Manager, Heads of Department, a Head of Inclusion, a Head of Teaching and Learning, Student Deans, Community Relations and Marketing role and a Guidance Officers.

Many of our staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are long serving members of the Boonah State High School community. Their experience, commitment, and consistency provide a stable and supportive learning environment, and reflect the strength of our school's values and reputation within the wider community.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

At Boonah State High School, our vision is for every student to succeed. We are committed to ensuring that all students feel a sense of belonging, are actively engaged in learning, and are given every opportunity to achieve academic success. This vision is underpinned the Boonah State High School Strategic Plan 2025 - 2028.

We are guided by the Department of Education's Inclusive Education Policy, which affirms the right of every student - regardless of social, cultural, or family background, identity, or ability - to access high-quality education in a supportive environment. Inclusive education at Boonah SHS means students learn alongside their peers, supported by reasonable adjustments and teaching strategies tailored to meet individual learning needs.

Inclusion at our school is not an isolated program or initiative - it is embedded in the culture, policies, and daily practices that shape our school community. We are on a continuing journey toward creating a more inclusive education system, guided by nine core features established by the United Nations and adopted by the Department of Education:

- A system-wide approach – consistent inclusion practices across the department and within schools
- Committed leadership – focused on removing barriers and enabling participation
- Whole-of-school collaboration – involving all staff, students, families, and volunteers
- Collaborative decision-making – ensuring all voices are heard and valued
- Respect for diversity – welcoming and celebrating every student and family
- A confident and capable workforce – with shared expertise and professional learning
- Accessible learning environments – inclusive of all activities, events, and learning spaces
- Effective transitions – from primary to secondary, and from school to work or further study
- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation – tracking student progress and refining inclusive practices

At Boonah State High School, inclusion is not limited to students with a verified disability. It is a commitment to every student. Our approach includes:

- Substantial investment in human resources, including school leaders, teachers, and Education Support Officers (Teacher Aides)
- Personalised learning that addresses the needs of every student
- A support structure aligned to year levels and curriculum faculties
- Strong transition partnerships with our cluster primary schools, ensuring continuity of support
- Increased case management for students with complex needs
- Access to external expertise, including the South East Region Inclusion Coach

Inclusive education is about making our school a true reflection of the community we serve. At Boonah State High School, we are committed to ensuring that every student who walks through our gates is welcomed, supported, and given the opportunity to thrive.

FACILITIES & RESOURCES

Boonah State High School takes great prides in its facilities; recent years have seen an improvement program implemented with new buildings and refurbishment of older buildings. We strive to provide our students with an open, clean and inviting learning environment.

Facilities include:

- Specialist science laboratories
- Industrial Design and Technology workshops
- Hospitality catering facilities
- Swimming pool
- 400 metre athletics track
- Gymnasium
- Music room
- Tuckshop and Learnscape
- Junior secondary precinct with playground
- School Bus
- Computer laboratories
- Agriculture Trade Skills Centre
- Textiles room
- Library
- Multipurpose indoor sport/assembly hall
- Football field
- Multipurpose courts
- Multi-Media centre
- Senior secondary precinct

GENERAL INFORMATION

School Calendar

The school calendar is published on QParents and the website; it is regularly updated throughout the year. All cultural and sporting events, celebrations, camps, parent-teacher interview blocks and excursions are listed.

School Hours

Our first bell rings at 8:55am with the school day beginning at 9:00am. Any student who arrives late is required to report to Student Services Attendance window on arrival. Classes conclude at 3:05pm.

Lessons Times:

Name	Start Time	End Time
Form	9:00 am	9:10 am
Period 1	9:10 am	10:20 am
Period 2	10:20 am	11:30 am
First Lunch Break	11:30 am	12:15 pm
Period 3	12:15 pm	1:25 pm
Second Lunch Break	1:25 pm	1:55 pm
Period 4	1:55 pm	3:05 pm

STUDENT WELLBEING

At Boonah State High School, we are committed to supporting the mental, social, emotional, and physical wellbeing of every student. Our dedicated Wellbeing Team works collaboratively to provide holistic support, ensuring students feel safe, valued, and equipped to succeed both in and beyond the classroom. Students and families can access support through a range of specialised staff, including:

Heads of Department (HODs): Provide curriculum leadership and consult with staff, students, and families on matters related to academic progress and assessment.

Head of Inclusion: Coordinates support services for students with disabilities and diverse learning needs, ensuring all students can access and participate fully in learning.

Dean of Students: Oversees student behaviour and attendance data, and provides support in addressing patterns of underperformance or disengagement.

Year 7 Year Level Coordinators: Support students with everyday concerns, issue uniform cards, and act as a liaison between students, staff, and parents. They may refer students to appropriate wellbeing or academic support staff as needed.

Guidance Officer: Offers confidential counselling to support students with personal, social, and academic concerns. The Guidance Officer also provides careers advice and mental health support. Appointments can be made through the office.

Social Worker: Provides individual and family counselling, therapeutic support, and referrals to external services. Focuses on wellbeing, mental health, and care coordination.

Chaplain: Delivers social, emotional, and spiritual support through mentoring, role modelling, and participation in school and community activities. Complex matters are referred to appropriate professionals.

School Based Youth Health Nurse: Offers confidential health education and support on topics such as relationships, nutrition, puberty, mental health, and substance use. Available to students, staff, and families. Appointments can be made via the office or directly.

Industry Liaison Officer/Youth Support Coordinator: Work primarily with senior students to explore vocational pathways such as TAFE, school based apprenticeships, and traineeships. They also support students at risk of disengagement from education.

Attendance Officer: Monitors and supports student attendance in alignment with compulsory education requirements. Collaborates with families and staff to address attendance concerns early.

Indigenous Liaison Team: Champions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, engagement, and support throughout the school community.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

At Boonah State High School, we believe that strong, open communication between the school and families is key to student success. We are committed to keeping parents and caregivers informed, involved, and engaged through a variety of accessible communication platforms.

QParents: Available for download to mobile devices or accessed on desktop computer. Allows parents/caregivers to see and report absences, view the school calendar including assessment due dates, excursions, camps and school events, receive report cards, view and pay invoices and change student details. We encourage all families to register for QParents to streamline communication and access important information easily.

Facebook/Instagram: The School has an active Facebook and Instagram, which is updated daily. This is used to showcase achievement, class work, photos and to remind students and families of upcoming date claimers.

Website: The Boonah State High School website has a plethora of information and is a once stop shop for all information including enrolment, curriculum, support and resources, forms and documents.

Text Messages: The school utilises text messages to advise parents of absences, reminders, outstanding assessment, and changes to school routine. Please ensure you keep the school informed of any changes to your details.

Invoicing / Statements: Invoices and statements are sent to the nominated email address upon creation. If your email address changes, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Boonah State High School is proud to have an active and dedicated **Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)**. The P&C plays a vital role in supporting the school community by fostering strong partnerships between families, staff, and the wider community. Being part of the P&C is a great way to stay connected, contribute to school life, and help create positive outcomes for all students.

We welcome all community minded individuals, especially parents and caregivers, to get involved—whether by attending meetings, contributing ideas, or volunteering time. The P&C operates both the school tuckshop and uniform shop, which provide valuable services to our students and staff. These operations are always in need of enthusiastic volunteers and support. For more information or to express your interest in volunteering, please contact the school office.

INDIGENOUS STATEMENT

Indigenous Education at Boonah State High School includes the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. It also embraces the education of all students about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures of Queensland.

At Boonah SHS we believe that educating students about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture contributes to a harmonious environment and a mature approach to inclusion.

Boonah State High School has a varied range of activities to foster inclusion including NAIDOC week activities, Harmony Day/Week activities, implementing and embedding perspectives in a variety of curriculum areas.

INSURANCE

The school does not carry insurance to cover injury to students or their property. This is a parental responsibility.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Fassifern Coaches are contracted by Queensland Transport to provide reliable bus services for our students. If you have any questions or concerns regarding school bus transport, please contact Fassifern Coaches directly on 07 5463 1407. The bus routes servicing our school are funded through the Department of Transport's School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS). This scheme supports students for whom Boonah State High School is the closest high school to their primary residence. Families residing within the school catchment area may apply for STAS through Fassifern Coaches, who will advise on eligibility. Students who attend a high school other than their closest may be required to pay a fee to the bus company. At the start of each school year, students travelling by bus will receive a registration form from their bus driver, which must be completed to obtain a bus pass.

While the school values its partnership with Fassifern Coaches, behaviour management on buses is the responsibility of the bus companies and Queensland Transport. We ask all students and families to review the Queensland Transport Bus Code of Conduct, which is included in your enrolment pack. We strongly encourage all students to uphold the Boonah State High School values of respect, integrity, community and responsibility while travelling on school buses, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all passengers and drivers.

REPORTING

School Report Cards are issued via QParents and emailed to parents and caregivers at these times:

- **Progress Report:** at the end of Term 1
- **Full Reports:** at the end of Semesters 1 and 2

At the completion of Year 12, students receive a Senior Statement and, if eligible, the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), issued by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Student Absence:

If your student is absent from school with parent /caregiver permission, please inform the office using one of the following methods:

- Phone the school absence line on 5460 6160 stating students name, form class, the reason and dates of absence.
- QParents can be used to notify of upcoming absences or to provide a reason for unexplained absences.
- Present in person to the Student Services – attendance window, you must provide a medical certificate if student is away for three or more days

The school will send an alert text message to nominated parent/caregiver each day when a student is absent unexplained.

If a known absence of 10 or more days is to occur, please contact the office to complete a “School Exemption” application.

Late to School / Early Departure

Students arriving late or leaving early must report to Student Services – Attendance window for a pass. If unattended, report to the office.

Late students must provide parental approval either on arrival or the following day; otherwise, the absence remains unexplained.

If leaving during class time, parents/caregivers must provide a written note in the student’s planner with the departure and return times. This note should be shown to the class teacher at the lesson start. Students without a note will not be permitted to leave class. A leave pass will then be issued at Student Reception after parent/caregiver confirmation. Text messages to students are not accepted as absence notification.

Illness/Injury

Students who are unwell or injured should report immediately to the nearest staff member. Parents/caregivers will be contacted if the student requires collection.

Finance

Student Reception accepts payments Tuesday to Friday, 8:15am – 12:15pm. Students may pay before school or at first break. Payments can be made at the Student Services reception by cash, cheque, or EFTPOS, or online via direct deposit, QParents, or BPoint as per invoices.

Direct Deposit Details:

BSB: 064 402

Account: 0009 0019

Reference: First initial & surname + payment description (e.g., K Smith Camp)

To request a refund for non-participation in an extracurricular activity, parents must complete a Request for Refund form available at the office. Refund eligibility details are provided on the form.

Away for the Day

All phones, smart watches, and earbuds must remain **Away for the Day** during school hours. Please refer to the full policy for further details.

SCHOOL PROCEDURES

Student Messages

To minimise class disruption please contact the school office with student's message prior to 1:30pm where possible.

Student ID

Students participating in the SRS Scheme will be issued a student ID card every year. If you require a replacement card outside of this a cost will be incurred.

Tuckshop

The Parents & Citizens Association run the Tuckshop which is open five days a week with a large range of healthy and nutritious food in accordance with the Healthy Schools Tuckshop guidelines. Students can place orders via QKR or at the tuckshop prior to form if they wish to do so.

Valuables

Students should leave all valuables and large sums of money at the office for safe keeping.

Student Medication

If your child requires staff to administer medication at school, please contact the school office in the first instance to discuss your child's requirements. Please note, school staff will only administer medication that has been prescribed by a qualified health practitioner (e.g. doctor, dentist), is in its original container, in date and has an attached pharmacy label. This includes over the counter medication eg Panadol. Office staff will ask you to complete and sign Section 1 of the 'Administration of Medication' at school record sheet. If your child requires more than one medication, you will need to complete a form for each medication. Please see the website for further details regarding specific conditions and their requirements. All medication must be in date.

Change of Details

Please advise the school of updated details as soon as possible, current contact details are essential in case of accident or illness. Change of details can be notified via the QParents app, email or phone call.

Interviews

Parent-Teacher interviews are conducted once year; at the conclusion of first term. Teachers may request a parent teacher interview at reporting. We also host an *Open House* event in Term 3 where all teaching staff are available to speak with.

Outside of this staff will be more than happy to work with parents/caregivers regarding their students' progress. The school website provides a comprehensive list of staff emails for your use.

Lost Property

Students should report all lost property to Student Reception. All named items will be returned to students; unnamed items will remain in the lost property locked located at the entrance to the library. Uncollected unnamed lost property will be given to charity at the end of each term.

Items not allowed into our School

- Items prohibited by State Law (eg drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, vapes, pornographic material, knives)
- Nasal Inhalers
- Any potentially dangerous items which may be used to cause injury or offence (eg laser pointers, metal bars, and other items classified under Queensland law as offensive items or weapons)
- Cigarette lighters or matches
- Jewellery or clothing outside the uniform policy
- Aerosol/spray cans (eg deodorant, paint)
- Chewing/bubble gum
- Oil/Nikko pens
- White Out/Liquid Paper
- Energy Drinks (eg mother, V, Redbull)