

# STUDENT DRIVERS POLICY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact our administration office on 03 51580254

## PURPOSE

This policy sets out our school's approach to students driving to and from school and school events. Our school recognises the need for the whole community to make efforts to minimise the risks associated with young drivers and to encourage responsible driving behaviours for students.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all students at Mallacoota P-12 College who have a valid driver's licence.

## POLICY

Our school recognises that some students will obtain a driver's licence while they are still attending school. Some of these students will want to drive to and from school. Mallacoota P-12 College expects that all student drivers will adhere to the conditions of their licence and the road rules and will drive in a safe and responsible manner. If the school becomes aware that a student driver has driven in an unsafe or irresponsible manner, police will be notified.

Students are not permitted to drive themselves to and from camps, excursions or other school activities unless previously arranged and agreed in consultation with the school Principal, and only in exceptional circumstances or in circumstances where all students are required to make their own way to the event. Consistent with Victoria's Graduated Licensing System conditions, students are permitted to drive only one peer passenger (aged 16-22), unless the passengers are siblings of the driver.

Written consent is required from both the Driver's parent/carer and the passenger's parent/carer prior to a student driver having a passenger in their vehicle to or from school (this includes when the passenger is a sibling).

Students are not permitted to use their car during the school day unless it is for an approved reason such as an unavoidable medical appointment. A certificate of attendance at the appointment is required.

If students act in breach of this policy, parents/carers will be notified, and appropriate student sanctions will apply.

### Parking

Students may park in streets adjacent to the school. There is no student parking on the school grounds.

Mallacoota P-12 College takes no responsibility for damage to vehicles parked in the vicinity of school grounds or on school grounds, and parking is at the vehicle owner's own risk.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in our VCE/VM Student handbook
- Provided in hard copy to senior students at the beginning of the school year.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Department's teaching and learning resource:

- [Traffic Safety](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Policy last reviewed       | 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 |
| Consultation               | School Council              |
| Approved by                | Principal                   |
| Next scheduled review date | August 2025                 |

## Appendix 1

### **Letter to Parents of Drivers and Passengers**

Dear Parent/Guardian

A number of our senior school students are driving or intend to drive to school this year and some have indicated that they intend to carry another student as a passenger.

\_\_\_\_\_ has indicated that he/she intends to drive to school or will be a passenger of another student who is driving to school.

Despite the fact that most young drivers try to be careful, safety conscious and considerate when driving, research clearly shows that they are at a higher risk of having a serious crash than older, more experienced drivers.

The presence of young passengers also greatly increases the risk for teenage drivers and, the more passengers, the greater the risk.

It is important that all students and their parents/guardians are aware of these risks and the type of behaviour that the school expects from student drivers.

Under the Victorian Graduated Licensing System, no more than one peer aged passenger (aged 16-22 years) is permitted to travel with the driver, unless the passengers are siblings of the driver. This condition does not apply when a fully licensed driver is sitting in the front passenger seat. This is based on research that shows that young drivers carrying several passengers are more likely to engage in risk taking behaviour.

For more information, please visit: [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

To ensure that all involved are aware of these requirements, student drivers and a parent/guardian and, where appropriate, a parent/guardian of any passengers, are required to sign a *Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form*.

The form must be signed and returned prior to students driving to school.

These requirements are intended to ensure the welfare and safety of students at our school and the local community.

Appendix 2

**Students driving cars to school: Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form**

*This form must be completed by any student who intends to drive to school either occasionally or regularly.*

**Note:** If the student intends to drive any vehicle other than the one registered on this form, it must also be registered with the school.

**Parent/Guardian of Driver**

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_

to drive to school (and take the passenger indicated on this form- cross out if there will be no passenger travelling with your student driver). I am aware of Victoria's Graduated Licensing System conditions and the school requirements regarding students driving to school.

*Signature of Parent/Guardian:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian of Passenger** (where applicable)

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to be driven to and from school by \_\_\_\_\_

I am aware of Victoria's Graduated Licensing System conditions and the school requirements regarding students driving to school.

*Signature of Parent/Guardian:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Student**

I agree to adhere to Victoria's Graduated Licensing System conditions and the school requirements regarding students driving a car to school.

*Signature of Student:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Note:** A photograph of the student's driver licence must be attached to this form.

In signing this form, you accept all conditions detailed in the school's Student Driver Policy.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Student Name        |  |
| Car Make/Model      |  |
| Colour              |  |
| Registration Number |  |
| School Approval:    |  |