

Student Driver Policy

RATIONALE

It has been common practice for students of legal driving age, with their Probationary Licence, to drive to and from school. It appears that the number of students doing this has increased considerably in recent years. This can be attributed to a number of factors including:

- increased numbers of students completing Year 12, which has led to more students of driving age being enrolled
- an increase in the number of students who travel between school and work on a regular basis
- an increase in the number of students who live independently.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Young drivers are one of the most vulnerable road user groups because of their inexperience, relatively underdeveloped skills and a distinct pattern of behaviour relating to youth culture and lifestyle. While most young drivers are careful, safety conscious and considerate when driving, research shows that travelling with teenage passengers constitutes an increased risk. In their first year of driving, young people are about three times more likely to be killed or injured than older, more experienced drivers.

The College has a responsibility to look at ways of improving the safety and wellbeing of our young people.

IMPLEMENTATION

The College is aware that a number of senior school students intend to drive to school either occasionally or on a regular basis. It is important that all members of the school community are aware of the school policy on this matter.

Specifically:

- The College does not have space available for student parking. Consequently no student is permitted to park their car within the College grounds.
- Students are not permitted to go to their car during the school day.
- It is expected that students will drive to and from school in a safe and responsible manner and adhere to road rules.
- Under no circumstances can a student transport other students in their cars in school hours on school events.
- If these requirements are disregarded, parents will be notified and appropriate student sanctions will apply.
- If the school becomes aware that a student driver has broken road rules or driven in an unsafe or irresponsible manner, police will be notified.
- Students are not to use their cars at lunchtime.
- Students driving to and from school are asked to notify Year Level Coordinators and provide car & registration details.

Communication strategies used to ensure students and parents are aware of the school policy include:

- Copy of policy in Alba Newsletter on the College Website.
- Regular reminders of policy in Alba Newsletter.
- Letter home to parents (*please find letter attached*).
- Student assemblies.
- VCE Information Evenings.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in...

November 2016

LETTER TO PARENT/GUARDIAN

(Date)

Dear Parent/Guardian

The school is aware that a number of senior students intend to drive to school either occasionally or on a regular basis. Students and parents need to be aware that students cannot park in the school grounds and that they are not permitted to go to their car during the school day. It is also important that students and parents are aware that under no circumstances can students, once at school, transport other students in their cars when travelling to and from school or any school function or program. Other school expectations are detailed in the Student Driver Policy. Breaches of the school policy will lead to appropriate disciplinary action.

The school is mindful of the fact that young drivers are at greater risk than older, more experienced drivers and that travelling with teenage passengers considerably increases the risks for young drivers. Consequently, we are conscious of the need to ensure a duty of care for our students. We are also committed to ensuring that the community maintains a positive perception of the school and that irresponsible and unsafe driving by students will inevitably have a negative effect on the school's image within the community. We therefore have an expectation that students will drive to and from school in a safe and responsible manner. If the school becomes aware that students are breaking road rules, the police will be notified.

We thank you for your support in implementing this policy and look forward to working with you to assist your child in achieving their best. Please do not hesitate to contact us as you need.

Yours faithfully

(Senior Sub School Leader / Principal)