

Driving to School Policy



Rationale:

Officer Secondary College has an increasing number of senior students who may drive to and from school. While most young drivers are careful, safety conscious and considerate when driving, they are one of the most vulnerable road user groups. Officer Secondary College has a responsibility to take all reasonable measures to ensure the welfare and safety of students. Our "Driving to School" Policy outlines what we expect from student drivers.

Aims:

To protect the safety of our students and other road users.

To maintain the positive culture and reputation of Officer Secondary College within the community.

Implementation:

Requirements for students driving to school at Officer Secondary College:

Any student who holds a valid Victorian license and intends to drive to school, both on a regular basis or occasionally, must comply with the school policy and is required to complete the Parent Permission form and Student Agreement form.

School requirement

1. Students are required to adhere to all road rules and drive in a safe and responsible manner.
2. Students are only to use their car for travelling to and from school.

Please note: students are only permitted to drive during the school day if they have a legitimate reason for exiting the school grounds, for example a medical appointment and ONLY if a signed parent/guardian note has been produced to their Learning Community Leader, indicating the following:

- The reason for early exit (e.g. Medical appointment)
 - The time and date of student departure from the College
 - An acknowledgement that their child will be utilising their vehicle upon exit.
3. Officer Secondary College will maintain our duty of care principles if we believe a student shouldn't drive (eg the student appears too sick to leave) and will undertake the following protocols.
 - Inform the parent/guardian to collect their child
 - As required, the College will support arrangements for the vehicle to be secured safely.
 4. Student licence details and car make/model and registration must be recorded with the school.
 5. Students may only park legally in areas outside the school grounds and are not permitted to park in the staff car parks.
 6. Students are not permitted to carry other students as passengers to and from school without the written permission of their parent/guardian and the passenger's parent/guardian. No student may carry more than one passenger aged 16-22 at any time, except siblings.
 7. Student drivers, a parent/guardian and, if relevant, the parent/guardian of any passenger, must sign the Parent Permission and Student Agreement form.
 8. Appropriate sanctions will apply where students fail to meet these obligations. Any unsafe driving behaviour or breaches of road rules will be reported to the police.

To be granted permission to drive to school, the following steps must be completed:

- Students collect all the appropriate forms from the VCE Leader. (See Appendix for samples)
- Forms are completed by all relevant persons and returned to the VCE Leader.
- Only when all forms have been vetted for their accuracy of completion may the student drive to school.

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Office Use Only

Date Implemented	April 2019
Author	Officer Secondary College
Approved By	SIT Team
Date for Review	April 2022
Responsible for Review	SIT Team

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Appendix One – Letter to parents from the Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Several 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/will be a passenger of another student who is driving to school.

Even though 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 types of behaviour that the school expects from student drivers.

Copies of the school policy on student drivers and the *Parent Permission* and *Student Agreement Form* are attached.

The policy outlines the school's expectations and provides information regarding the transport of passengers. Of note is that student drivers are not permitted to carry other students as passengers without the written permission of their parent/guardian and the passenger's parent/guardian.

Under the 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, go to the following website:

www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/driver-safety/young-and-new-drivers/victorias-graduated-licensing-system

To ensure that all involved are aware of these requirements, student drivers and 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 and from Officer Secondary College. These requirements are intended to ensure the welfare and safety of students at Officer Secondary College and the local community.

Kind regards

Michaela Cole
Principal

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Appendix Two – Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form

Students Driving 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.

Student Name:	
Car Make/Model:	
Colour:	Registration Number:

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

Parent Permission

I give permission for _____ to drive to and from school and take the passenger indicated on this form. 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

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 vehicle to school.

Signature of Student: _____ *Date:* _____

Note: A copy of the student's driver's license must be attached to this form.

School Approval

Approved by: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

3 copies of this form should be made for: 1. Student 2. VCE Leader 3. Student file (original)