

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

### **RE: Students driving to school**

The school is aware that a number of senior students intend to drive to school either occasionally or on a regular basis.

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.

Thus 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.

A copy of the *Requirements for Students Driving to School Policy* is attached. The *Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form* must be completed and returned to the school office **before** students are permitted to drive to school. Breaches of the school policy will lead to appropriate disciplinary action including a lengthy suspension from school or other consequence in accordance with Senior School Policies.

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:

[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/driver-safety/young-and-new-drivers/victorias-graduated-licensing-system](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/driver-safety/young-and-new-drivers/victorias-graduated-licensing-system)

We are 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.

Yours faithfully,

Joanne McKenzie  
Senior School Educational Leader

Meridith Walker  
Principal

## **Requirements for Students Driving Cars to School Casterton Secondary College**

Any students of legal driving age with a current Victorian Driver's Licence who intend to drive to school, either on a regular basis or occasionally, must comply with the school policy and is required to complete *Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form*.

### School requirements

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. Students are not permitted under any circumstances to drive from the school during the day.
3. Students cannot drive other students to or from school programs and functions.
4. Students are not permitted to go to their cars during the school day.
5. 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. The school has a policy that, no more than one peer aged passenger should travel with the driver, in line with Graduated Licensing System (GLS) peer passenger restrictions. The GLS condition requires all P1 drivers to carry no more than one peer passengers (aged 16-22 years). Peers do not include siblings.
6. Student drivers, a parent/ guardian and, if relevant, the parent/ guardian of any passenger, must sign the *Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form*.
7. Students are required to notify the school of any passenger who may be travelling with them to and from school.
8. Students must park in the parking area in front of the school and not in other areas of the school grounds.
9. If any of the above requirements are not followed, the student will have an appropriate sanction applied which will include a lengthy suspension or other consequence in accordance with Senior School Policies.
10. The school takes no responsibility for damage to cars while parked at the school.
11. 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.

## Students Driving Cars to Casterton Secondary College Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form

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

Student Name	
Car Make	
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 school and take the passenger indicated on this form. I am aware of the Victoria's Graduated Licensing System conditions and the school requirements regarding students driving to school. I understand the safety of all students is of paramount importance. Students who breach the Requirements of Students Driving Cars to School policy can expect a lengthy suspension or other consequence in accordance with Senior School Policies.

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

### Parent/Guardian Passenger

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to be driven to and from school by \_\_\_\_\_. I am aware of the Victorian Graduated Licensing System conditions and the school requirements regarding students driving to school. I understand the safety of all students is of paramount importance. Students who breach the Requirements of Students Driving Cars to School policy can expect a lengthy suspension or other consequence in accordance with Senior School Policies.

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. I understand the safety of all students is of paramount importance. Students who breach the Requirements of Students Driving Cars to School policy can expect a lengthy suspension or other consequence in accordance with Senior School Policies.

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

### SCHOOL APPROVAL

Approved by:

Signature:

Date:

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

## SAMPLE EXTRACTS FOR SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

### Setting the expectation for student drivers

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#### *Welfare and safety of student drivers*

As is the case with many secondary colleges, more and more of our senior students are driving 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. Travelling with teenage passengers adds to the risk for these young drivers. Victoria's Graduated Licensing System condition states that 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 person who is fully licensed is sitting in the front passenger seat.

With this in mind, the school has a responsibility to take all reasonable measures to ensure the welfare and safety of students. Our *Student Driving Policy* outlines what we expect from student drivers and copies of this may be obtained from the Senior School Coordinator.

A *Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form* can also be collected from the Coordinator. All student drivers and parents/guardians are required to sign this form and return it to the school.

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#### *Students as responsible drivers in the community*

Our school takes pride in maintaining a positive image within the local community. With an increasing number of our students driving to and from school, it is important that they recognise that any careless and unsafe driving reflects poorly not just on them personally but also on the school.

Members of the school community are requested to inform the school if they are aware of any students who are driving in a reckless or dangerous manner or who are not adhering to road rules.

Any reports made will be taken seriously and investigated. If student drivers have been found to put themselves and other road users at risk, appropriate sanctions will be carried out and if necessary the police notified. Concern for our students' safety and welfare are paramount and we ask that the whole school community works together to achieve this end.

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#### *Parking for students driving to school*

The school is aware that a number of senior students intend to drive to school either occasionally or on a regular basis. Students and their parents/guardians need to be aware of the school's policy with regard to the parking of student cars. **<Insert school policy>** It is also expected that students will drive to and from school in a safe and responsible manner and adhere to road rules. If these requirements are disregarded, parents will be notified and appropriate student sanctions will apply and, if necessary, the police will also be notified.