



## Ringwood Secondary College Student Driver Policy

**Version No:** 2

**Date:** December 2012

**Committee:** Policy and Education

### **Rationale:**

Ringwood Secondary College recognises that it is common practice for students of legal driving age to drive to and from school. Most young drivers are careful, safety conscious and considerate when driving; however, they are one of the most vulnerable road user groups because of their inexperience, relatively underdeveloped driving skills and a distinct pattern of behaviour relating to youth culture and lifestyle. Research shows that travelling with teenage passengers constitutes an increased risk for young drivers. In this context, we have a responsibility to look at all possible ways of improving the safety and wellbeing of young people.

### **Aims:**

- To set the expectation for students driving to and from school.
- To inform students, parents/guardians of the requirements of students who drive to and from school, including the contracts or agreements required to be signed and returned to the College.
- To enhance the welfare and safety of students and maintain the College's positive public image.

### **Policy Statement (Taken from The Student Driver Policy Statement Guidelines from 2004)**

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

Please note that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not permit students, once at school, to transport other students in their cars. Advice from the DEECD Policy and Advisory Guide states:

*"Under no circumstances should students transport other students in private vehicles for any school organised activity or function whether held during or outside school times."*

### **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.
3. Car make and registration details must be recorded with the school.
4. Students may only park in the designated student parking area - Hill Street, north of the Ringwood Trade Training Facility (RTTF).
5. Students are not permitted to carry other passengers to and from school without the written permission of their parent/guardian and the passenger's parent/guardian. The college has a policy that, unless there are exceptional circumstances, no more than one passenger should travel with the driver.
6. Students are required to notify the school of any passenger who may be travelling with them to and from school.

7. Student drivers, a parent/guardian and, if relevant, the parent/guardian of any passenger, must sign the Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form.

Students who fail to meet these obligations will be required to discuss the matter with the Assistant Principal/Head of Senior School and face appropriate sanctions, which may include suspension.

Any unsafe driving behaviour or breaches of road rules will be reported to the police.

### **Implementation Guidelines:**

- The implementation of the Student Driver Policy is the responsibility of the VCE Co-ordinators.
- Information regarding the Student Driver Policy will be included in the VCE Handbook which is available on the college website. This includes:
  - The Student Driver Policy
  - A letter of explanation to the parent/guardian.
  - Requirements for students driving to Ringwood Secondary College
  - Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form.
- Requirements for students driving to Ringwood Secondary College will be published in the Senior School Student Diary.
- The Parent Permission and Student Agreement Form must be completed and signed by student drivers and parents/guardians and returned to the Senior Co-ordinators prior to driving to the College.
- Students should also note the following restrictions on drivers generally at:  
<http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/Licences/GetYourPs/RestrictionsOnPs/Peerpassengerrestriction.htm>

*NOTE: A probationary (P1) driver is not allowed to carry more than one peer passenger when driving. The penalties for committing this offence will be three demerit points and a fine equal to three penalty units.*

*A peer passenger is any person aged between 16 years of age and less than 22 years. This means that you cannot carry more than one passenger within this age group. A peer passenger does not include the driver's spouse, domestic partner, sibling or step-sibling.*