

STUDENT DRIVERS

POLICY

Purpose

This policy sets out Ballarat Specialist Schools (BSS) 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 and social behaviours for students.

Objective

To explain and inform our community the strategies and processes we have in place to support students and families to operate independently and safely when travelling to and from school by private, student driven transport.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All student drivers, their families and other students.

Rationale

BSS recognises the need for our entire community to make efforts to reduce the risk of harm for all road users, but especially for the students who attend Ballarat Specialist School. The school is hyper vigilant in ensuring the safety of all students is maintained under our Duty of Care and Child Safe Standards. As such, the school engages in a comprehensive pre-driver education program in the senior years which includes a practical camp experience for suitable students at the Charlton Driver Education Centre in Charlton Victoria.

Implementation

BSS recognises that some students will turn 18 and obtain a driver's licence while they are still attending school. Some of these students will want to drive to and from school. BSS 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, parents/guardians and potentially the 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. However, to transport a student peer, signed consent *must* be provided by both families consenting to the arrangement prior to the travel occurring.

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.

Students wishing to drive to school *must* complete and sign the Student Driver Application Form (Appendix 1), highlighting the guidelines and Duty of Care based principles the School has established in conjunction with the Department of Education and Training (DET) for student safety.

Parking

Parking at BSS F.A.R.M campus is limited due to congestion and student movement with buses. Students are required to park in a designated area as designated by the school. This may include parking off-site on Norman Street. Any parking is at the risk of the vehicle owner. BSS does not take responsibility to damage to vehicles parked either on or off site.

Procedure:

1. Complete Student Driver Application Form with parents/guardians and submit to the School office.
2. The school will assess the suitability of the Student Application Form in line with student safety, welfare and their Duty of Care to all students in mind.
3. The school will either grant permission for the student to drive to school in-line with the schools guidelines as outlined in this policy or contact the family directly to inform them that the application has been declined.
4. The school will review the conduct and validity of the drivers need to drive to school and reserves the right to retract any privileges in regards to driving to school.

RELATED POLICIES

- BSS Duty of Care policy
- BSS Visitors policy
- Further information available at [Traffic Safety](#)

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed every three to four years.

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

Aug 2019



Student Driver Application Form

As a responsible road user and Ballarat Specialist School student I will demonstrate the schools values and commitment to safety by:

- ✓ Adhering to all VicRoads and Victorian State Government rules and regulations relating to traffic use
- ✓ Parking my vehicle in the designated area as prescribed by the school
- ✓ Driving safely and responsibly to and from school
- ✓ Only transporting family members as passengers when permission has been granted with my parent/guardian, the School and within the conditions of my license (responsibility of drivers and their families)
- ✓ Ensure my vehicle is well maintained, roadworthy and safe

I will not, for any reason do the following:

- ✗ Ask peers to ride as a passenger in my vehicle
- ✗ Use my vehicle during school hours without permission from my parents / guardian *and* permission from the school Principal
- ✗ Drive in an unsafe or irresponsible manner
- ✗ Intentionally or unintentionally breach any conditions of my license
- ✗ Invite others to leave school grounds to look at your vehicle

I, _____ fully understand my rights and responsibilities as a road user and member of Ballarat Specialist School. I agree that I will follow the above guidelines to ensure that I keep myself, peers and fellow road users safe. I understand that the school takes no responsibility for damage to vehicles parked on or off school grounds; parking is at the vehicles owner's own risk.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian: (Name) _____ Signature: _____

School representative: (Name) _____ Signature: _____

Note: All VicRoads Rules and Regulations override all BSS guidelines for safety and legal conditions. Be sure you know and understand your responsibilities under your license conditions. For more information refer to www.vicroads.vic.gov.au