

# Cobram & District Specialist School Student Drivers' Policy



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school office on (03) 58721643

## BACKGROUND

Cobram & District Specialist School provides educational programs for students with a disability and high needs who have an intellectual disability.

By law in Victoria all children from the age of 6 up until they turn 17 years must be enrolled at a registered school or registered for home schooling unless they have a reasonable excuse. School participation maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with a comprehensive educational program and access to support networks. It also helps to develop important skills, knowledge and values that set them up for further learning and active participation in their local community.

Specialist schools, including Cobram & District Specialist School, have been established to cater for the specific educational needs of students with a disability or with additional needs. Under State and Federal discrimination law, specialist schools are permitted to set specific enrolment criteria and to not enrol students who do not meet these criteria.

## Purpose

This policy sets out our school's approach to students driving to and from school and school events. Our school recognizes the need for the whole community to make efforts to minimize the risks associated with young drivers and to encourage responsible driving behaviours for students.

## Scope

This policy applies to all students at Cobram & District Specialist School who have a valid driver's licence. All students who intend to drive a car to school must complete the Parent Permission & Student Drivers' Agreement form agreeing to adhere by rules set out by this policy.

Our school recognizes that some students will turn 18 and obtain a driver's license while they are still attending school. Some of these students will want to drive to and from school. Cobram & District Specialist School 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. Our school's expectation is that students will not take any passengers when driving to and from school. If the school becomes aware that a student driver has driven in an unsafe or irresponsible manner, 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. Students are not permitted to drive any other student in their vehicle. Student may carry their siblings as passengers however, written parental consent is required.

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. [Note: once a student turns 18, they are legally adults and can make their own decisions, so they do not require the consent of their parent/carer to attend an appointment during the school day. However, unless there are reasons why the student does not want their parent/carer to know about the appointment, the school may decide to ask for consent from the parent/carer for the student to leave the school for the appointment or at least ensure that the parent/carer is aware that the student will be leaving during the school day for the appointment].

If students act in breach of this policy, parents/carers will be notified, and appropriate student sanctions will apply.

Cobram & District Specialist School takes no responsibility for damage to vehicles parked in the student car park and parking is at the vehicle owner's own risk.

## Further Information & Resources

School Policy and Advisory Guide: Traffic Safety on DET

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/phsyed/Pages/trafficsafety.aspx>

## Policy Review & Approval

Policy approved by	23 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2023
Next scheduled review date	2025

## 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

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 \_\_\_\_\_ (VPC) to drive to school and have gone through this policy with my child. I have explained to my child that when travelling to/from school they are not permitted to take passengers. 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 requirements of Cobram & District Specialist School regarding students driving a car to school.

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

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

<b>School Approval</b> Approved by:
Signature:
Date: