

Student Driver Policy

Policy Category:	1. Student Learning and Welfare	Policy No.	# 1.27
Related Policies and Documents:	Form 1.27.1 Student Driver Agreement and Consent Form Form 1.27.2 Student Passenger Agreement and Consent Form Form 1.27.3 Letter to Parents re Student Driver or Passenger		
Approved By:	School Council	Date Approved:	22 nd August 2023
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Review Period/Cycle:	Two-Yearly	Next Review Date:	August 2025

GUIDING SCRIPTURE

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2: 3-4

PURPOSE

It is recognised that many senior students may wish / choose to drive to and from school in their own vehicles. At times, student drivers may need to transport siblings to and from school.

The procedures outlined in this policy have been implemented as part of our duty of care and commitment to the safety and wellbeing of students at St John's Lutheran School. The policy aims to assist students to conduct safe travel to and from campus and ensure that they understand their responsibility as student drivers and passengers.

SCOPE

This policy applies to any student at St John's Lutheran School who intend to drive unsupervised to the school campus or who is a passenger in a vehicle being driven by a student who is unsupervised.

Parents / guardians are expected to fully support and uphold the *Student Driver Policy* as part of the annual commitment they sign to comply with the school's policies. This includes the completion of any applicable forms. Parents/ guardians are encouraged to ensure that their child is conducting safe travel and driving practices to and from the campus.

POLICY STATEMENT

St John's Lutheran School acknowledges that some parents will allow their students to drive unsupervised to school. The school is committed to our duty of care for the safety and wellbeing of all students, including student drivers and passengers travelling with student drivers. St John's Lutheran School encourages safety on the roads and promotes safe and responsible driving and parking practices. Parents/ guardians have a joint responsibility and duty of care between St John's Lutheran School and the parent/ guardian for the safe transport of students to and from school.

Any student that holds a valid Queensland Driver Licence who intends to drive to school, either on a regular basis or on occasion, must comply with the school *Student Driver Policy*, is required to complete all permission or agreement forms and be approved by the Principal prior to commencing driving to school.

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As part of our duty of care, the school requires all passengers in a vehicle being driven by an unsupervised student driver to comply with the school *Student Driver Policy*, complete all permission or agreement forms and be approved by the Principal prior to being such a passenger. The school supports and will only approve siblings as passengers in vehicles being driven by students to and from school.

PROCEDURES

1. Permission and Approval

1.1 Student Drivers

Students wishing to drive their own vehicle to and from school must complete a *Student Driver Agreement and Consent Form* which includes written consent from parents/ guardians and approval from the Principal. Students will need to supply the school with their vehicle registration details, make and model of the vehicle.

The application form is returned to the Principal along with the student's current driver's licence for verification. It is at the discretion of the Principal to approve the application.

1.2 Student Passengers

Parents/guardians are to complete a *Student Passenger Agreement and Consent Form* if they wish for one or more of their children to be driven to or from school by the student driver, prior to being transported. This form includes written consent from parents/ guardians and approval from the Principal.

2. Student Driver Conditions

- i. Student drivers must abide by all road rules and drive in a safe and responsible manner at all times
- ii. Students may NOT park their vehicles on school grounds or in the designated school car parks. They are to park their vehicle safely and legally on the streets surrounding the school. When parking, students are to respect our neighbours and other community members, ensuring they do not park across driveways or block access to properties
- iii. Student drivers and passengers must not linger in the area where their vehicle is parked before, during or after school. All students must enter the school grounds using the school safety crossing area
- iv. Student vehicles are only to be accessed for transport to and from the school **at the beginning and end of the school day**. If a student requires access to their vehicle during the school day, they must **seek permission from the Principal or delegate**
- v. Students are not to leave school grounds in a vehicle during the school day unless they have permission from a parent/ guardian and the Principal or delegate and have signed out of the office before departing. Students must then sign back in on time at the office
- vi. A student driver must not transport other students unless prior approval has been gained from the Principal, their own parent/carer and the parent/carer of the student/s to be transported
- vii. Student drivers are not permitted to transport themselves or other students to **excursions/ activities/ other events held offsite**, except with the express permission of the Principal and the parents/ guardians. This will only be granted in exceptional circumstances
- viii. Students must advise the school administration office of any changes to their driver licence status or vehicle details (e.g. make, model and registration)
- ix. Students who drive irresponsibly or fail to comply with the *Student Driver Policy* shall face disciplinary action being taken by the school, as well as reported to the Queensland Police, if necessary.

St John's Lutheran School accepts no responsibility or liability for:

- i. Any theft or damage that may occur to a student vehicle parked on or near St John's grounds. Parking shall be at the owner's risk
- ii. Any parking infringements or fines related to a student vehicle.

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Communication of this Policy	The <i>Student Driver Policy</i> shall be communicated to students and parents on the school website and through the School Information Book.
Legislation / References:	Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009