

28 October 2024

Dear Parents

RE: New Laws for P-plate Drivers & Passengers

Yesterday, the Western Australian government announced new road safety measures for probationary drivers aimed at educating young drivers and saving lives. Red P-plate drivers will be limited to carrying only **one passenger in their vehicles at all times** as part of new rules being introduced to reduce death and serious injury on Western Australian roads.

The new one-person passenger restriction brings Western Australia into line with other jurisdictions and is in addition to the complete curfew on red P-plate driving between midnight and 5am.

Exemptions from the passenger restrictions rule will only apply if:

- the additional passenger(s) is an experienced driver who has held an ordinary C-class licence for at least four years; or
- other passengers are immediate family members; or
- if additional passengers are in the vehicle as a necessary requirement of the driver's employment. For this to apply, a letter from the driver's employer must be carried by the red P-plate driver for presentation on request.

The penalty for breaching red P-plate passenger restrictions is a \$200 fine and two demerit points.

The new restriction will apply for all existing and future red P-plate drivers **from 1 December 2024**.

Driving to and from School

Parents are responsible for their son's mode of transport to and from school each day. Parents of students who are driving themselves to school or who are passengers in a car driven by another Trinity College student should be aware of the personal risks and liabilities involved.

The College also expects all student drivers to drive safely, follow the road rules, and drive in line with the expectations of the wider community. Further to this, we expect that they would honour the values of the College when in a vehicle and respect themselves and other road users.

Driving to and from compulsory College events (ie. PSA sports training)

Return transport is provided for students in Years 10, 11 & 12 to travel to Waterford (or other venues) for training during the PSA sporting seasons.

The College recognises that it is often more convenient for students to travel directly home after training rather than return to the campus. In the interest of your son's safety and to satisfy important legal responsibilities, it is important that parents keep the College informed of any alternate travel arrangements made for their son.

- Parents allowing their son to drive a private vehicle to compulsory, off-campus activities must provide permission by completing the *Student Driver Permission Form*.
- Parents allowing their son to be a passenger in a vehicle driven by another Trinity College student to compulsory, off-campus activities must provide permission by completing the *Passenger Permission Form*. Please be mindful of the new laws for P-plate drivers and passengers.
- The College does not require permission for siblings to travel as passengers in their siblings' cars.

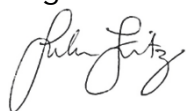
The *Student Driver Permission Form* and *Passenger Permission Form* can be found [HERE](#), hard copies are also available at Senior School Administration. Completed forms can be returned to fritz.julian@trinity.wa.edu.au or to Senior Administration.

Student Parking

Students are not permitted to park on the College site (or the Uniform Shop) during school hours. After parking their car in the morning, students are not permitted to return to their car until the school day is completed.

Attaining their driver's licence is an important rite of passage for many teenagers and young people and certainly viewed as a sign of developing independence and responsibility. Unfortunately, statistics consistently show us that the combination of inexperience, driver distraction and poor decision making can lead to tragic results. Each family will have their own rules and expectations regarding being both a driver and passenger. I encourage all families to speak to their son regarding the College expectations and requirements in keeping each and every boy safe.

Regards



Julian Fritz

Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing