

Guidelines for students leaving the College campus during the day

Background

The privilege for students of being able to leave the College grounds during the day has been in place since the College opened in 2003.

Leaving the campus independently without an adult is an important part of each young person's journey towards independent adulthood and aligns with the College's Young Adult Ethos pillar of Demonstrating Social Responsibility.

Leaving the campus independently has many benefits:

- Life skills – managing time, interacting with community members.
- Mental health – independence can be good for teenage confidence, self-esteem and sense of belonging.
- Physical activity – leaving the campus encourages students to walk to the local shops.
- Community connections – positive behaviour builds connection with our local community.

The College has developed these guidelines to help our young people enjoy their privilege responsibly and safely.

As leaving the campus is a privilege, this privilege may be removed under the Loss of Good Standing process.

General Guidelines

The length of the College breaks prevents students traveling too far on foot. Most students walk to the commercial centre near to the BP Mindarie or the Quinns Village Shopping Centre. Talara Park, opposite the College, is out of bounds for Mindarie Senior College students.

It is each student's responsibility to be punctual for each class at the end of each break or flexi period.

If students feel unsafe, for any reason, they should remain on the College campus.

A senior member of the College Leadership Team is based in the fast-food precinct at lunchtime on the timetabled College days.

Identification of students

To clearly identify the young person is Mindarie Senior College student, the correct College uniform must be worn when leaving the campus.

Pedestrian safety

The College is fortunate to be located on a quiet residential area without much traffic, outside the beginning and end of the school day. By Year 11 students should be able to cross the road safely, but please remind your young person to be vigilant, particularly at busy times such as the start and finish of the school day when parents from the two neighbouring schools are picking up their children.

Vehicle safety

The College strongly recommends the following if students are using their own vehicle:

- Drive carefully around the College area at the beginning and end of the College day, noting the 40km/h zone. The roads are all extremely busy with other vehicles and students as pedestrians, not only from our College but the neighbouring schools, all of which have very young students.
- Red P-plate passenger restrictions permit only one passenger in a car. If passengers are permitted, it is recommended that other students are not driven in the vehicle without the express knowledge of their parents. Accident statistics for young drivers suggest that having friends in the vehicle can act as a distraction which can cause accidents.
- Recess time and lunchtime are both short. It is strongly recommended that students not use their vehicles at these times. Students are likely to rush, drive less safely and be late to classes.
- It is not practical for schools to provide enough parking for each student, it is the driver's responsibility to park their car legally, help ease parking issues and be respectful and courteous to neighbouring properties.
- Drivers should ensure they are familiar with the current restrictions on driving with a provisional licence listed at <https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/driving-on-your-p-plates.asp>.

Personal safety

While off site incidents are rare, incidents tend to arise from ongoing disagreements, generally arising from a situation outside the College day. It is essential that Student Services are informed if there are interpersonal issues between students to be resolved at the earliest opportunity.

If a situation arises in the community, the immediate action for the young person is to reach a 'safe place'. This might be returning to the College if close by or entering a shop and asking for help.

The College should be contacted on 6207 5500 or if the situation requires immediate attendance, WA Police should be contacted on 000.

If a medical issue should arise, the College should be contacted on 6207 5500 or if serious, an ambulance by contacting 000.

Students are recommended not to visit the beaches if unsupervised or in an unpatrolled area.

Student on a Risk Management Plan (RMP)

It is recommended that student with a risk management plan (RMP) remain on campus, unless the agreement to leave the campus is detailed in the RMP.