



Merri River School

<http://www.merrirs.vic.edu.au>

189 Wollaston Road, Warrnambool 3280 Ph: 5561 1711

Principal: Robert Dowell

Email: robert.dowell@education.vic.gov.au

MATURE MINORS POLICY

PURPOSE

To explain to members of our school community the circumstances in which Warrnambool Special Developmental School may decide to treat a student as a mature minor to enable them to independently make decisions about their education, health and welfare.

SCOPE

This policy may be applied to some or all decisions involving a student's education, health and welfare.

POLICY

Warrnambool Special Developmental School will ordinarily engage with a student's parents/carers about a student's education and welfare unless the principal (or their nominee) decides it is not in the best interests of the student to do so.

The principal (or their nominee) is responsible for determining whether a student is a mature minor for the purpose of making a particular decision about their education or welfare. A student may be treated as a mature minor for some decisions and not for others. The principal (or their nominee) will decide whether a student should be treated as a mature minor on a case by case basis and may consult with school staff including the Assistant Principal and the Welfare Officer where appropriate.

When assessing whether a student should be treated as a mature minor for the purposes of a particular decision, the principal (or their nominee) will consider:

- the best interests of the student
- the student's age, maturity level, understanding of the issues and consequences associated with the decision
- their living arrangements (independence)
- the student's academic results, attendance and engagement at school.

The principal must be satisfied that the student has sufficient maturity, understanding and intelligence to comprehend the nature and effect of the particular decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Mature Minors](#)

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last reviewed on **June 2018** and is scheduled for review on **June 2022**.