

Boys Driving to School

Policy 2025

A policy concerning boys driving to school has been in place for a few years now.

The assumption seems to be that once a restricted licence had been obtained, driving to and from school each day is a rite. I certainly appreciate that this is domestically convenient for some families, but the school continues to be concerned about the safety of boys when in their cars. It is the case that despite our best efforts to educate and their own familiarity with the law, some boys are regularly giving lifts to passengers when they shouldn't, and some boys regularly ignore the speed limit both inside the school and on Willow Park Drive.

Purely with the safety of our boys in mind, the following policy is in effect. Whilst I am aware that some boys will continue to look for ways to bypass our policy, I would like to thank the vast majority of boys and their families who support the school's approach. Our only concern continues to be the safety of boys in their cars.

The policy.

Any boy driving to school needs to apply for a **new school licence, each year**. Application forms are obtained from the School Office.

Parking space is limited, both outside the boarding houses and in the main car park for the day school.

Boarders

Boarders in Year 13 may apply to their Housemaster for permission to drive to and from Rathkeale when they have an appropriate licence. Boarders who have permission to keep a car at school are expected to park outside their boarding house, as directed by the Housemaster. Cars will not be used during the week and the keys will be handed in for safekeeping. A boy may ask for his keys when it is time for him to drive home for the weekend. Any other use during the week would be exceptional and would need to be sanctioned by both a Parent/Caregiver and the Housemaster.

Boarders in Year 12 will not be given permission to keep a car at school until they are absent from school on study leave during the Derived Grade and subsequent external exams periods.

Dayboys in Year 13

Year 13 boys may apply for permission to drive to Rathkeale in the usual way. Bearing in mind that a good bus service runs to school, the spirit of this request is that a boy should not need to drive to school every day but might quite legitimately request permission to drive on days when he needs to leave school promptly to attend a scheduled event/commitment outside school. 'One off' permission can also be requested from me to attend a medical/physio (etc) appointment. Boys who cannot easily access the bus routes because of their rural location would certainly be welcome to request to drive to and from school each day. I hope to be able to offer boys in Year 13 who have not yet gained their Defensive Driving qualification, the chance to attend a course in school. A contribution towards the cost of the course will be requested. Of course, boys who prefer to do it privately earlier in the year will be encouraged to do so.

Dayboys in Year 12

As for boarders, permission will not be given for a boy in Year 12 to regularly drive to/from school until the period of study leave whilst the Derived Grade and subsequent external exams are taking place. At that stage, Year 12 boys may apply for permission to drive to Rathkeale. Once permission has been given to drive to school, the arrangements would be as for Year 13 boys – please see above.

Consequences for breaking the rules concerning Driving.

Usually, a warning will be given to boys who break the rules and parent/caregivers will be contacted to explain what has happened. A second breach of the rules will result in a two-week ban from driving to school. Boys who continue to ignore our rules or who are the subject of complaints about their driving from the residents of Willow Park Drive, or members of the wider community, will lose the rite to drive to school and this will be viewed as continual disobedience.

Adam Gordon

Deputy Principal