

700 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & WELLBEING**712 Parental Consent and 18 Year Old Students**

School Policy and Advisory Guide Reference: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/parentalresponsibility.aspx		Last Update June 2013
Last Ratified by School Council		Date Month Year
Line Manager		Cassandra Walters

While parents retain parental responsibility for their children up to the age of 18, it is generally accepted that as children become older and more mature, they are more capable of making their own decisions about a wide range of issues.

There is no specific law about when a child is considered sufficiently mature and responsible to make his or her own decisions about welfare and educational matters. However, case law has established a set of principles that are to be used in considering whether a child is a “mature minor”.

This table identifies when students may provide consent that is ordinarily required of parents/guardians.

When	then the student may
a student is 18 or over	provide their own consent as they are considered an adult
a principal agrees, based on being satisfied that: the student (usually over 15): - is living separately and independently from parents/guardians - is unable or unwilling to obtain parental consent - has sufficient maturity, understanding and intelligence to make up their own mind about the issue - parent/guardian consent may be difficult or inappropriate to obtain	- sign enrolment forms - enter into agreement with the school about such things as the purchase of educational and school materials including text books and stationary - participate in outdoor education activities - pay for required curriculum options and camp/excursion expenses - consent to medical treatment. Note: If the principal does not believe the student has sufficient understanding to provide their own consent, the principal must make a report to the Department of Human Services.

At Wodonga Senior Secondary College, 18 year old Students who wish to sign their own permission as required need to submit the attached application to the Principal.

Application for Special Exemption In Lieu of Parent Signature

To The Principal,

My child, _____, is 18 years of age and I write to obtain special exemption for them to sign the following on my behalf:

<i>Please tick all that apply</i>	
☐	in and out of the College during the school day – to be entered as approved absence, parent choice
☐	excursion and camp consent forms
☐	any unexplained absences – to be entered as approved absence, parent choice
☐	change of address details forms – to alter school mail outs including reports, Early Warning Notices and Suspension forms
☐	any exit paperwork should they choose to pursue alternate pathways

I understand that I will take full responsibility for my child while they are not on the school grounds and indemnify the College from its duty of care responsibility while they are away from the College.

I absolve Wodonga Senior Secondary College of any responsibility should absences approved by my child adversely affect their academic, physical, social or emotional outcomes.

I also understand that _____ will need to sign out and back in to the college at the front office, giving time of departure and return. This is in accordance with College policy, however they will sign for themselves in lieu of a parent note.

Yours sincerely,

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY

Approval Date: Name: Signed:

Card Issued Date: Name: Pass Number