



DECISION MAKING BY MATURE MINORS POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Trafalgar High School on (03) 5633 1733

PURPOSE:

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

RATIONALE:

To provide guidance to principals on when and how to assess a student as being mature enough to make their own decision about a particular issue.

Throughout this policy, principal means the principal or a principal's nominee, which may include a Student Support Service Officer or other nominated staff member, depending on the decision to be made. Parent means person who has decision making responsibility for a child

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

A prerequisite policy 'Decision Making Responsibilities for Students' is required for this policy.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Trafalgar High 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 school leadership team, year level coordinators, wellbeing staff and Student Support Services 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 decision.



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FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Decision Making Responsibilities for Students policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	May 2026

This policy was ratified at the School Council Meeting held at Trafalgar High School;

Date: May 2022

Scheduled for review in: 4 years

Signed:
School Council President
Tanya Megaw

Signed:
Principal
Jane Mersey