



Student Car and Motorcycle Policy

Index

Introductory Statement.....	2
Eligibility.....	2
Parking Permission.....	3
To Obtain Parking Permission.....	3
Once parking permission is obtained the following daily procedures must be followed.....	3
Parking Areas.....	3
Vehicle Use on Campus.....	3
Passengers.....	4
Prohibited Use.....	4
Liability.....	4
Disciplinary Action.....	4
Conclusion.....	5
Ratification.....	5

Appendix

Agreement Form	6
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Introductory Statement

Marist College Athlone recognises the need for some students to drive to school. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, the following policy outlines the terms and conditions under which students may park and drive their vehicles on school grounds.

Safe driving is crucial for learner or novice drivers, especially on school grounds where the safety of students, staff, and visitors is a top priority. As a learner or novice driver, your skills are still developing, and driving in a controlled environment like a school requires extra caution. Schools are often busy with pedestrians, buses, and other vehicles, which demands full attention and adherence to speed limits and traffic rules. Reckless driving or distractions can lead to accidents, putting lives at risk. Safe driving not only protects others but also builds responsible habits that will help you become a more skilled and confident driver in the future.

Eligibility

- Only students in **6th Year** are permitted to drive to and from school.
- Students must possess a **valid driving license** or a learner permit, with appropriate insurance, road tax, and NCT (if applicable) for their vehicle.
- Proof of these documents must be submitted to the school office before parking on campus is allowed.
- Please Note:
 - a) Since students with “L” plates must be accompanied at all times by a qualified driver there are no foreseen circumstances where it would be convenient for such a student to bring a car to school.
 - b) As all newly qualified drivers are required to display a “N” plate for two years there are no foreseen circumstances where a student would not be displaying such a plate.
 - c) In light of our duty of care to all who access our premises and particularly the student cohort it is necessary that we cooperate with the Gardai and Road Safety Authority to ensure maximum protection for all users.
- **Students are not permitted to bring tractors to school, for health and safety reasons.**

Parking Permission

To Obtain Parking Permission

1. The students must meet the Principal and/or Deputy Principal.
2. Inform the Principal/ Deputy Principal of the **make** and **model, colour** of car and the **registration** of the car.
3. **Sign an Agreement Form (Appendix 1 attached)**

Once parking permission is obtained the following daily procedures must be followed:

1. Students must hand in their car keys to the Deputy Principal **each morning**. Keys can be collected at the end of the school day.
2. Students cannot sit in cars during the school day or at lunch times.
3. Students are not allowed to leave school campus during the day in their car.
4. If students have appointments and wish to leave school, then parents should complete the Permission to Leave School note in the students' journal. Parents will be contacted to confirm validity of the note.
5. Students are not permitted to carry other passengers (other than siblings) in their cars on school grounds.

Only those students with parking permission will be permitted to bring a car or motorcycle to school.

Parking Areas

- Student parking of cars and motorcycles will be a privilege for sixth year students only.
- Designated **student parking areas** are provided, and students must park in the assigned location.
- Parking for students is provided in front of the Hermitage. **Student cars are not permitted to park anywhere else.**
- Parking in staff, visitor, or unauthorized spaces is strictly prohibited.

Vehicle Use on Campus

- The **speed limit** within the school grounds is **10 km/h**.
- Reckless driving, speeding, or dangerous behaviour is prohibited and may result in the loss of parking privileges.
- Students are only allowed to enter and exit the school grounds in their vehicle during the school day with prior written permission from school administration.

Passengers

Mostly due to distraction and peer pressure, serious car accidents involving young drivers occur more frequently when there are passengers in the car. It is important to note that the school is not in a position to constantly monitor students in cars and it is therefore imperative that Parents/Guardians provide clear direction to their son in strictly adhering to this policy.

For safety reasons the school directs that passengers are not permitted in cars driven by other students at any time during the school day and would strongly recommend that passengers are not permitted between school and home. Likewise, we would strongly advise students not to accept lifts in cars driven by other students, friends or inexperienced drivers

Prohibited Use

- Students are not permitted to carry other passengers (other than siblings) in their cars on school grounds.
- Vehicles are not to be used during school hours (8:45am – 3.30pm), except for leaving school with permission.
- **Students may not take their car on school trips/matches.**
- Students must adhere to all traffic rules and regulations, both on and off campus.

Liability

- Marist College Athlone accepts **no responsibility** for any damage, theft, or loss of personal items from vehicles while on campus.
- The student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) assume full responsibility for the vehicle, including ensuring that it is roadworthy, insured, and parked legally and safely.

Disciplinary Action

- Violation of this policy may result in the following actions:
 - **First offense:** Written warning and parental notification.
 - **Second offense:** Revocation of parking privileges for one month.
 - **Third offense:** Permanent loss of parking privileges.
- Complaints received by the school in relation to students driving may also incur a suspension.
- For serious violations, such as reckless driving or endangering others, immediate suspension or expulsion from school may be considered.

Conclusion

The support of all concerned parties in ensuring the safety of all students within our collective care is greatly appreciated by the school and this policy is a positive step towards the safety of all.

The Principal/Board of Management has the right to revoke parking permission should drivers not abide by the conditions outlined above.

Ratification

Ratified by the Board of Management on 12th June 2024

Signed: John O'Carroll

(Chairperson BOM)

Signed: Michael

Date: 12 / 06 / 2024

Date: 12 / 06 / 2024

Appendix 1

Parental/Guardian Agreement

I, the undersigned, as the parent/guardian of _____ (student's name), have read and understood the terms and conditions of the Marist College Student Car and Motorbike Policy. I agree to ensure that my son complies with these regulations and understand the consequences of non-compliance.

Student Name: _____

Year Group: _____

Vehicle Registration Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Signature

I, _____ (student's name), confirm that I have read and agree to comply with the Marist College Student Car and Motorbike Policy.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return this form to the school office. Failure to do so will result in the student being unable to park on campus.

Office use only

Received ____/____/____

Permission granted ____/____/____

Signed _____ Principal/Deputy Principal