



# Protocol for pupils who drive to and from School

## 1 OVERALL POLICY

Pupils who satisfy the legal requirements of, and possess, a full driving licence may apply to drive a car or motorcycle that is licensed, taxed, insured and in good order (MOT if appropriate) for journeys to and from home and school only. To drive a Government backed e-scooter, students must have the correct entitlements on their full or provisional licence. All eligible pupils, boarders and day, may apply to drive.

The overall policy is to allow pupils to drive motor vehicles. The freedom and ability to drive is seen by pupils as both a rite of passage, and also a right; therefore, the College's involvement in monitoring it is perceived by some as interference in this. Striking the right balance between encouraging them to participate in this scheme and then dealing with defaulters can be a challenge, but is one that is important to pursue for the safety of all pupils and the local community.

Parking of pupil's vehicles is an issue with the Resident Parking Scheme now in place. A permit is required between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday to park on surrounding roads and there are no spaces for pupils to park on the College site.

## 2 PROCESS

Pupils need the consent of their parents, Housemaster/mistress and the Deputy Head (Pastoral) to drive a car, motorcycle or e-scooter. This is achieved by completion of the form 'Application for permission to drive a motor vehicle for journeys to and from home and school'. The Marshal maintains the [register of permitted vehicles](#), drivers and passengers.

## 3 PARAMETERS

- Pupils may only drive on journeys to and from home and school. Special permission must be sought from the Housemaster/mistress for any other journey.
- Permission to drive will be revoked if at any time the driver is seen to be contravening the Highway Code, or if the driver's competence is called into question (for example by having points on the licence).
- Pupils may only drive to and from the College Sports facilities at Beggar's Bush on Saturdays; on such occasions they must inform their Housemaster/mistress and their sports coach – these same rules also apply to any authorised passengers.
- Pupils wishing to carry another pupil as a passenger to and from school (or to and from Beggar's Bush on Saturdays) must present written permission from both sets of parents to the Marshal.

## 4 LEGAL

The content of the form 'Application for permission to drive a motor vehicle for journeys to and from home and school' has been agreed with the College's solicitors. The College



accepts no responsibility for damage to property or persons arising from the driving of motor vehicles by pupils. It contains a statement which parents sign to accept that they absolve the College from *'any liability, unless negligent, for any loss or damage to the vehicle, the property of the College or other parties and from any liability for death or injury to my son/daughter or to any other person however caused arising from the use of this vehicle by my son/daughter. Save that this consent shall not remove any statutory or other duty of care owed by Clifton College to my son/daughter nor any vicarious duty or responsibility for the actions or default of its employees or agents.'*

## 5 PUPIL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

- There are statements on driving in the school rules; all pupils have a copy of this.
- Sixth Form pupils are supported by talks given in the sixth form lecture programme (organised by the Head of Sixth Form).
- Each pupil who requests permission to drive has a personal discussion with his/her HoM and the Deputy Head (Pastoral). The issues are reinforced by the Marshal when he receives the completed form.
- Housemasters and mistresses regularly remind Sixth formers of the issues of driving and the need to have permission.
- The Deputy Head (Pastoral) reminds parents periodically of the rules and concerns of young people driving in the Deputy Heads' end of term letter.
- Occasionally there are 5<sup>th</sup> Form pupils who are 16 and wish to drive motor scooters to School. In such cases careful discussions between the pupil, his/her parents and the HoM will take place; these will include discussions over the pupil's personal safety and appropriate clothing.
- Using a Government backed e-scooter will also require parental permission and similar discussions with a student's HoM. It must be noted that to drive one of these vehicles students must have a category Q entitlement on their licence or a full or provisional driving licence to be able to legally drive them.

## 6 NUMBERS INVOLVED

- The process of obtaining permission enables the College to have discussions with the pupils about driving and the rules.
- In general, no application to drive is refused.
- Parents are often keen for, and sometimes 'need' their children to drive themselves to school.
- Currently, there are about 12 pupils who have driving forms which have been completed; but inevitably a few will be driving without authorisation.
- In reality the numbers grow steadily throughout the year as pupils pass their tests and are sometimes given cars.
- Permission has been withdrawn from pupils whose driving is considered as dangerous, or who flout the rules. Parents and guardians are usually very supportive of this.

## **7 INCIDENTS**

- There will inevitably be a number of pupils who will drive without permission, some of whom get caught.
- Sanctions are given for unauthorised driving or other infringement of rules.
- There are inevitably a number of accidents that happen during the year on the journeys to and from school, and also at other times outside school. The aim of this protocol is to reduce this.