

At Spotswood College, the safety and wellbeing of our international students is our highest priority. As part of our commitment to ensuring a secure and supportive learning environment, we have the following policies around driving and being passengers in vehicles during a student's enrolment.

### International Students Driving Motor Vehicles

As a condition of enrolment, international students at Spotswood College **are not permitted to own, drive or operate any motor vehicle** while residing in New Zealand. This includes scooters, motorcycles, mopeds and cars.

The use of overseas driver's licences **is not permitted** for international students attending secondary school in New Zealand. Driving in New Zealand requires a full understanding of local road rules, which can differ significantly from other countries. Most international students are not eligible to hold a full New Zealand driver's licence, and insurance cover is often not valid for student drivers.

### International students as passengers in vehicles

Students may travel in motor vehicles **only as passengers**, and only when the vehicle is operated by an **approved driver** who holds a **full New Zealand driver's licence** obtained through the official licensing process.

Students **must not travel with**:

1. Learner or restricted licence holders
2. Unlicensed drivers
3. Other students, unless a prior exception has been approved **in writing** by the school

Approved drivers are defined as:

1. A **homestay parent** or designated caregiver approved by Spotswood College
2. A **current employee** of Spotswood College
3. A **fully licensed driver** who has received **prior written approval** from:
  - a. The Spotswood College International Department, or
  - b. The student's natural parent or legal guardian
4. A **professional driver** employed by a licensed service provider (e.g. taxi or Uber)

All occupants **must wear seatbelts** at all times, regardless of where they are seated in the vehicle. This is a legal requirement in New Zealand and essential for everyone's safety.

## Hitchhiking (Seeking Rides from Strangers)

**Hitchhiking is strictly prohibited** for international students. Hitchhiking means standing at the side of the road and asking strangers for a ride - often by holding out your thumb. While this may be accepted in some cultures, it is considered **unsafe and inappropriate** in New Zealand, particularly for young people. Students must always use approved and safe transport methods.

## Transport Options

We work closely with our homestay families to ensure that all students have safe, reliable transport to and from school and extracurricular activities. Depending on the student's location and age, suitable options may include:

- Homestay transport
- School buses
- Public transport
- Cycling or walking (with prior agreement and safety considerations)
- Supervised carpooling

If you are unsure about any transport arrangement, please check with the International Department.