

INTRODUCTION

All staff members of Bairnsdale Secondary College are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children. Our College Values of Responsibility, Respect and Resilience, provide the framework under which our policies and guidelines are developed.

AIM

The purpose of this policy is to explain to members of our school community the circumstances in which Bairnsdale Secondary College may decide to treat a student as a mature minor to enable them to independently make decisions about their education, health and wellbeing.

SCOPE

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

POLICY

Bairnsdale Secondary College will ordinarily engage with a student's parents/carers about a student's education and wellbeing 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 wellbeing. 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 Hub Leaders, 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 particular decision.

Students who would like more information about the Department's *Mature Minors* policy, and how it might apply to them should contact their hub leader.

OTHER RESOURCES / CONTACT NUMBER

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library: [Mature Minors and Decision Making](#)