

## Policy – Mature Minors and Decision Making

### Policy Information

Policy Number:	HAL-XYZ-170
Current Version:	1.0
Policy Category:	Governance
Scope:	School Programs
PAL Link:	<a href="https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/mature-minors-and-decision-making/policy">https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/mature-minors-and-decision-making/policy</a>

### Revision History & Ratification

This policy needs to be reviewed by College Council annually or as required and ratified at the College Council meetings when changes are necessary. This policy will be published on the school's website and will be distributed to staff via Compass.

Revision Date:	Council Ratification Date:	Summary of Changes	Prepared/Approved By:
12/08/2020	November 2021	Policy Creation	Jason Patten

### Purpose

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

### Scope

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

## Policy

Hallam Senior College 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 members of the school leadership team, sub school leaders and staff, student support and 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 the Assistant Principal – Student Wellbeing (Mr John Lyall).

### **Further Information and Resources**

School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Mature Minors](#)