



inspiring confidence

ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY COLLEGE

TEACHING AND
LEARNING FRAMEWORK



**ST DOMINIC'S
PRIORY COLLEGE**

EDUCATING GIRLS. INSPIRING CONFIDENCE



At the core of the Dominican Charism is the energetic and purposeful search for truth – veritas.

With the traditions, values and ethos of the graced life of Dominic close at heart, it's a pursuit that requires thoughtful contemplation.

Guided by the Dominican motto, 'to contemplate and share with others the fruits of contemplation', ours is a living tradition that continues to evolve as time goes by.



WHERE CONTEMPLATION MEETS EDUCATION

Dominican educators strive to inspire wakefulness in their students – through wonder and awe, beauty and joy. They recognise the creativity and the innate dignity in each student – encouraging our younger Dominicans to eagerly pursue the truth.

Dominican education is an essential part of the story of our Charism. It's in our classrooms that the search for truth continues to grow and evolve. St Dominic's Priory College is a rich and vibrant learning community, where tradition meets innovation. Each girl is encouraged to develop a love of learning, foster an enterprising mindset and an aptitude for leadership.

WE KNOW HOW GIRLS LEARN BEST

Staff nurture healthy, positive learners who use their minds to respond thoughtfully, ethically and with action to personal, community and global challenges. Mutual trust between staff and students gives our girls confidence to take risks in their learning and 'challenge the norm'.

Learning is designed to facilitate independence and resilience; our teachers and support staff have an unwavering focus on knowing each girl and encouraging them to stretch and challenge themselves through diverse and new experiences.

For girls' it is positive relationships with their teachers that have the strongest association with academic achievement.

- Alliance of Girls' Schools
Australasia 2022

Teaching practice, and specifically the use of engaging content and learning pedagogy, is the key determinant for girls to be considered as thriving learners.

- Alliance of Girls' Schools Australasia 2022

It is our belief that when challenged, our students will experience success in meeting and exceeding expectations. Our programs are designed with this in mind and provide differing levels of conceptual, numeracy and literacy challenges.

Programs cater for all types of learners so that each can develop to their full potential and pursue their passions.





MISSION

A Catholic College educating girls in the Dominican tradition.



VISION

Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are a girls' College committed to truth and compassion. In the spirit of St Dominic, we contemplate the possibilities and honour the sacred dignity of each person through word and action. We aspire to provide an innovative, rigorous and inclusive education that leads girls and young women to achieve excellence in their studies and confidence in their future.



VALUES

As a Dominican community we value:

- + A sense of the sacred; joyful, eucharistic and reflective.
- + A love of learning through creative and critical thinking.
- + Modelling a eucharistic community as the basis for transformation.
- + Teaching the truth, by word and example.

The Teaching and Learning Framework translates our Mission, Vision and Values into a practical guide for teachers to ensure students experience a consistent approach in their education. It provides clarity and guidance for teachers through a common language of teaching and learning expectations across the College. Our agreed practices are a set of guidelines which have been developed through a consensus-building process, collectively agreed upon and adhered to at SDPC.

This framework supports every learner to grow to be the person God wants them to be, through development of their gifts, talents and interests.



**ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY
COLLEGE STAFF
ENCOURAGE STUDENTS
TO GROW PERSONALLY
AND INTELLECTUALLY
THROUGH...**

A SENSE OF THE SACRED; JOYFUL, EUCHARISTIC AND REFLECTIVE

St Dominic's Priory College staff provide experiences of a sense of the sacred through:

- + Prayer.
- + Stillness and Meditation.
- + Reflective Practices which may include journaling/learner profile.
- + Liturgical Singing.
- + Mass and Liturgy.
- + Retreats.
- + Religious Education Curriculum.
- + Ecological Awareness.
- + Celebration of Good News.
- + Sacramental programs.



AGREED PRACTICES

- + Morning Prayer in Home Class each morning.
- + Prayer before lunch (Primary only).
- + Friday morning Chapel Mass and class liturgies.
- + Stillness time every Monday and Friday at the beginning of lesson 6.
- + Teaching the literacy of prayer through the Religious Education curriculum.
- + Staff and student contribution and participation in whole school masses, liturgical events, and assemblies.
- + Staff and students model sustainable behaviours.

A LOVE OF LEARNING THROUGH CREATIVE AND CRITICAL THINKING

St Dominic's Priory College staff provide a positive learning environment for all students and encourage curious lifelong learners through development of:

- + Student agency.
- + Student centred learning approaches.
- + Deep learning/Transferrable skills.
- + Rigorous Assessment and Reporting procedures.

AGREED PRACTICES

St Dominic's Priory College staff will build relationships for a positive learning environment where students:

- + Feel safe to ask questions.
- + Are willing to take risks.
- + Access a curriculum that meets their individual needs.
- + Can access all lesson outlines on SEQTA from Year 5.
- + Learn beyond the classroom through enrichment activities.

St Dominic's Priory College staff will:

- + Have high expectations of students.
- + Engage students through presence and affirmations.
- + Promote curiosity and foster inquiry through innovative pedagogy.
- + Provide opportunities for problem solving, thinking critically and creatively.
- + Provide students with timely and meaningful feedback on their learning progress to move the learner forward and provide direction for future instruction.
- + Have a student-centred learning approach, where students take charge of their learning and make connections to the world outside their classroom.
- + Develop students' skills of academic honesty.
- + Encourage collaboration and teamwork in the classroom.
- + Know each student and their learning needs by reading Personal Learning Plans and engaging with the Inclusive Education team and other professionals.
- + Record student learning adjustments in the Student Information Portal on SEQTA.



MODELLING A DOMINICAN COMMUNITY AS THE BASIS FOR TRANSFORMATION

St Dominic's Priory College staff encourage a sense of belonging through:

- + Positive relationships.
- + Inclusive behaviours.
- + Open and effective communication.
- + Welcoming of all faiths and cultures.
- + Local community outreach.

AGREED PRACTICES

St Dominic's Priory College staff will:

- + Promote healthy relationships between teachers, students, parents and community members.
- + Work collaboratively in teams, including external professionals, to maximise learning opportunities for students.
- + Keep parents informed about their daughter's learning through continuous reporting processes which may involve SEQTA notifications, Learning Conversations, and email/phone calls, in addition to Semester Reports.
- + Encourage student and families to participate in whole school events.
- + Seek opportunities for old scholars to share their knowledge and experiences with students.





TEACHING THE TRUTH, BY WORD AND EXAMPLE

St Dominic's Priory College staff encourage:

- + Service to self.
- + Service to others.
- + Service to the community.
- + Service to the environment.

AGREED PRACTICES

St Dominic's Priory College staff will encourage students in:

SERVICE TO OTHERS:

- + Be kind.
- + Be respectful and show consideration towards others.
- + Show empathy.
- + Show compassion.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY:

- + Be involved in extra-curricular activities and service groups.
- + Respond to, and be respectful of, the needs of community members.

SERVICE TO THE ENVIRONMENT:

- + Preserve and protect the environment and its resources.
- + Encourage community members to be conscientious stewards of the environment and its resources.



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EDUCATING GIRLS,
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

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