



**ST DOMINIC'S
PRIORY COLLEGE**

EDUCATING GIRLS, INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

inspiring confidence

ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY COLLEGE

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

LAST REVIEW DATE	NEXT REVIEW DATE
July 2024	July 2026
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Muriel Noujaim <i>Deputy Principal</i>

St Dominic's Priory College Ltd | Est 1884 | ABN: 25 085 110 379 | CRICOS: 01102G

139 Molesworth Street, North Adelaide SA 5006 | phone: +61 8 8331 5100 | email: admin@stdominics.sa.edu.au | stdominics.sa.edu.au   

We acknowledge St Dominic's Priory College is situated on Kurna Land and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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PREFACE

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.

Further information about the College's principles and objectives can be found within the [2021 – 2025 Strategic Plan](#).

GOVERNANCE

Dominican Education Australia (DEA) is the governing authority of St Dominic's Priory College, an independent Catholic School. A Board of Directors, established in 1987, governs the College which is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cwlth)*. The Trustees of DEA and the College Board of Directors assures our Catholicity, fidelity to the Dominican charism, formation of Board members, excellence in teaching and learning and financial stability.

For more information about DEA visit: <https://dominicaneducationaustralia.com/>

CHILD SAFE

We are a Child Safe employer and are committed to the welfare and protection of children and young people. The College is committed to upholding a diverse and inclusive learning environment, ensuring children and young people are valued and respected. In accordance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, all employees are required to comply with the College's relevant policies and procedures.

To read the College's **Safeguarding Commitment Statement** in full, and access *College Policies, Procedures* and other resources, please [click here](#).

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PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE DOMINICAN HERITAGE

St Dominic's Priory College ('The College') first opened its doors in Molesworth Street, North Adelaide in February 1884, only six months after the pioneering Sisters from Stone in Staffordshire arrived in August 1883. Although originally intending to engage in nursing work, the Sisters' circumstances changed and they decided, in the words of the first Prioress Mother Rose Columba Adams; "...to begin our advanced School to pay the rent, as well as to benefit our neighbours".

Over one hundred and forty years later we give thanks for the wisdom, courage and endurance of this small group of Dominican Sisters who began our service to the education of children and youth in Adelaide. Since then the College has been functioning continuously, serving students coming from all parts of Adelaide from Reception to Year 12.

St Dominic's Priory College is governed by Dominican Education Australia and a College Board of Directors. As a Catholic College founded in the tradition of the Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide, the College is committed to ensuring the delivery of high-quality education and care to all students.

The College is steeped in the values of St Dominic, and believes that God has made us all equally. We value the dignity of all members of our school community recognising that we have rights and responsibilities to ensure a harmonious environment.

ABOUT THIS CODE OF CONDUCT

The St Dominic's Priory College Parent Code of Conduct ('Code of Conduct') is a policy developed to ensure parents, guardians and those with parental responsibilities (collectively, 'Parents') are aware of, understand and meet expectations with regard to their interaction with the College's staff, students, and other parents, while on school grounds and in official online forums.

In developing this Code of Conduct, the College recognises that Parents are the first educators of their daughter/s and also that we all must build trust and respect within our community. The College expects Parents to recognise that it must balance the interests of all within the College, including not only students and parents, but also the College's staff and their right to a safe working environment.

St Dominic's Priory College will always provide an excellent educational experience for a child and help equip that child with the skills required for a fulfilling adult life. This happens with community cooperation and support. To ensure such cooperation and support, this Code of Conduct outlines the College's expectations for all Parents with students enrolled at St Dominic's Priory College.

THE AIM OF THE PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Parent Code of Conduct aims:

- To provide guidelines to promote desirable and appropriate behaviour to ensure all interaction with students and adults is respectful and courteous, sensitive and considerate.
- To act as an ethical compass to assist in making decisions which are in the best interest of the students and our community.
- To ensure all parents understand what is expected of them, including reporting of potential violations and cooperation with any inquiries.
- To specify consequences for a breach of standards of behaviour.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

1. BEING A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL AND SUPPORTING ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY COLLEGE

Our College Vision Statement underpins elements of this Code of Conduct, specifically *'the value of each person in the community and the importance of promoting each person's self-esteem in a secure and loving environment'*.

Parents are expected to support the educational ethos and values of the College, model appropriate behaviours for their children to learn from, and work with the College as it educates and provides pastoral support to all students. Parents can support the College and be positive role models by doing, for example, the following:

- 1.1 Comply with the College's policies, procedures and directions, and ensure their children do the same.
- 1.2 Respect (and show to their children they respect) that the College is inclusive and welcomes students from a variety of backgrounds, and with different needs.
- 1.3 Complete forms and provide permissions in a timely manner when requested to do so by the College.
- 1.4 Encourage their children to actively participate in the life of the College, including in the many sporting and extracurricular activities available along with special days such as Gala Day, Sports Day, Fete, and Eucharistic celebrations (noting that some will be compulsory).
- 1.5 Be responsive to concerns raised by the College about their own child, including by being cooperative, providing information and attending meetings when required.
- 1.6 Keep the College informed about a child's behavioural or educational needs, including by providing updated medical information as soon as it becomes available. However, Parents need to also appreciate that while the College will take into account any new information, the College may not be able to accommodate every recommendation.
- 1.7 Keep the College informed about a child's parenting arrangements, including any court orders that may be in place. However, Parents should not involve the College in parenting disputes, or expect the College to act as the go-between for estranged Parents.
- 1.8 Keep the College informed of changes to name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address as soon as they occur.
- 1.9 Recognise the damage that gossip can do within the College community, and avoid unconstructive commentary (including criticism, uninformed rumour, or speculation) with other Parents, particularly on social media platforms.

2. BEHAVING RESPECTFULLY TOWARDS MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

St Dominic's Priory College expects that Parents will behave respectfully at all times towards the College staff (including employees, contractors and volunteers), the Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide, students and other Parents. This applies not only to words used, but also to tone and body language. "Respect" is intentionally a broad concept. The following is a non-exhaustive list of behaviours that are not respectful:

- 2.1 Bullying, intimidation, discrimination, sexual harassment, victimisation and child abuse.
- 2.2 Actual or threatened aggression or violence.
- 2.3 Behaviour that causes a risk to a person's health and wellbeing.
- 2.4 Defamatory or disrespectful comments.
- 2.5 Gossip, rumour, and innuendo.
- 2.6 Raising one's voice, or using offensive language, while communicating.
- 2.7 Age-inappropriate language when communicating with children.

3. USE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The expectations set out in this Code of Conduct can also apply to the way a Parent uses technology and behaves online. For example, Parents should:

- 3.1 Understand that issues arising between the College and the individual students or parents should be discussed directly with the College and not through external parent chat groups.
- 3.2 Respect a staff member's professional and personal boundaries, by not using their personal online presence to raise College matters (or otherwise engage in disrespectful behaviour).
- 3.3 Not take photos, videos or other recordings of another student without their Parent's consent, and not publish information (including personal details, contact information, images and recordings) concerning a staff member, Parent, student or other member of the College community online without express consent.
- 3.4 Avoid publishing information which may bring the College (or any of its staff, students, Parents and other members of the College community) into disrepute. This includes where an image or recording shows a student in college uniform behaving inappropriately.
- 3.5 Not communicate with other students outside of the College, including by email, chat apps, or on social media, without prior consent from that student's Parent(s).
- 3.6 Not discuss confidential or sensitive College matters, including in relation to grievances about a particular staff member, family or student, online.

- 3.7 Not set up any online website, forum or group which features the College's name in its title, or which may suggest that it is operated or sanctioned by the College.
- 3.8 Be polite and courteous in all communication including emails.

4. WHEN VISITING COLLEGE GROUNDS, OR ATTENDING COLLEGE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- 4.1 Parents must respect the College's risk-management procedures when visiting the College. Parents should immediately proceed to the Front Office upon arrival to sign in, and should only enter a classroom or other student environment when invited to do so by a staff member. This requirement does not apply when visiting the College only to:
 - 4.1a Attend an activity or event to which all members of the College community have been invited; or
 - 4.1b Drop off or collect a child from the College during normal school hours.
- 4.2 When visiting the College, or attending College activities and events, Parents should model appropriate and respectful behaviours. This includes:
 - 4.2a Demonstrating good 'sporting' conduct and fair play when attending the College's art, drama, sporting events or other such school events.
 - 4.2b Complying with applicable work health and safety and risk-management procedures.
 - 4.2c Complying with any reasonable directions given by the College's staff.
 - 4.2d Showing appropriate care and regard for the property of the College and others. Any damage should be promptly reported to the College.
 - 4.2e Dressing appropriately for the occasion.
 - 4.2f Not being under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

5. BEING A RESPECTFUL AND RESPONSIBLE DRIVER

When dropping off and picking up students from the College, Parents are expected to ensure the health and safety of all members of our College community, as well as the wider community, at all times.

- 5.1 Parents must comply with all traffic rules and any College traffic management system in place. This includes adhering to applicable speed limits, observing all traffic signs, limiting the use of car horns (unless indicating imminent danger), and parking appropriately and safely.

6. RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHERS

Parents are expected to ensure that other individuals involved in their child's life, such as other relatives and carers, also comply with this Code of Conduct.

7. RAISING CONCERNS APPROPRIATELY AND PRODUCTIVELY

The College is committed to the education and wellbeing of each student. It is therefore critical that Parents are able to raise genuine concerns and grievances they may have about such matters in an appropriate, constructive and respectful forum. The College's grievance-management procedures are set out in the Complaint Response and Resolution Policy. This policy sets out how concerns and grievances may be raised with the College; who they should be raised with; and how the College will deal with these in a respectful and timely manner. This policy is supplemented by policies, procedures and guidelines developed by the College Board and Executive. Reference documents include:

- Enrolment Policy;
- Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy;
- Privacy Policy; and
- Social Media Policy

8. CONSEQUENCES FOR BREACHING THIS CODE OF CONDUCT

Under the Terms and Conditions of Enrolment, Parents agree to abide by the policies of the school of which includes the Parent Code of Conduct. With these guidelines in place, it is hoped that Parents can appropriately direct their concerns and contribute to the harmonious College community that reflects the College's values.

- 8.1 The Principal will have absolute discretion for deciding how to best respond to concerns about a Parent's compliance with this Code of Conduct.
- 8.2 Where a Parent has breached this Code of Conduct, the Principal may implement one or more of the following consequences (and not necessarily in any particular order):
 - 8.2a A request that the relevant conduct immediately cease.
 - 8.2b A written warning.
 - 8.2c A Parent (or another relevant person) being banned from the College grounds, either for a particular period of time or permanently.
 - 8.2d A Parent (or another relevant person) being excluded from College activities or events.
 - 8.2e A requirement that a Parent (or another relevant person) only communicate with a nominated College representative.
 - 8.2f Termination of the enrolment of a Parent's daughter.
 - 8.2g Where appropriate, involve outside authorities.
- 8.3 Staff and volunteers are empowered to take steps to protect their own health and wellbeing. If they feel that a Parent is being inappropriate, they are encouraged to indicate this and ask that it stop. If it does not, or if a staff member feels that a Parent's actions are posing a risk to their or someone else's health and wellbeing, they are empowered to remove themselves from the situation. This may include by immediately concluding a meeting or phone call.

REVISION RECORD

Document Title	Parent Code of Conduct				
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