



**ST DOMINIC'S
PRIORY COLLEGE**

EDUCATING GIRLS, INSPIRING CONFIDENCE




inspiring confidence

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Last Review Date	Next Review Date
May 2021	May 2023

In use from Term 2, 2021

St Dominic's Priory College Ltd | Est 1884 | ABN: 25 085 110 379 | CRICOS: 01102G7

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.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT



**ST DOMINIC'S
PRIORY COLLEGE**

EDUCATING GIRLS, INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

DOMINICAN HERITAGE

St Dominic's Priory 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 thirty 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.




As a College steeped in the values of St Dominic, St Dominic's Priory College 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

They say it takes a village to raise a child. Similarly, St Dominic's Priory College cannot provide the best education for a child, or help equip that child with the skills required for a fulfilling adult life, without cooperation and support. To ensure such cooperation and support, this Code of Conduct outlines the College's expectations for all parents and guardians (collectively, Parents) with students enrolled at St Dominic's Priory College. In developing this Code of Conduct, the College recognises that Parents are the first educators of their daughter and ultimately want the best for her. However, the College also expects Parents to recognize that it must balance the interests of all of the College's stakeholders (including not only students and Parents, but also the College's staff and their right to a safe working environment).

This Code of Conduct operates in addition to any other College policies and procedures which apply to Parents, and may be varied from time to time by the College in its absolute discretion.

St Dominic's Priory College Ltd | Est 1884 | ABN: 25 085 110 379 | CRICOS: 01102G7

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.

inspiring confidence

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 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 a College community, and avoid unconstructive commentary (including criticism, uninformed rumour or speculation) with other Parents, including 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's 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 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).
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Not communicate with other students outside of the College, including by email or on social media, without prior consent from that student's Parent(s).
- 3.5 Not discuss confidential or sensitive College matters, including in relation to grievances about a particular staff member, family or student, online.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Be polite and courteous in all communication including emails. Lengthy emails should be avoided.

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:

- a. Attend an activity or event to which all members of the College community have been invited;
- or
- b. drop off or collect a child from College during normal school hours.

When visiting the College, or attending College activities and events, Parents should model appropriate and respectful behaviours. This includes:

- 4.2 Demonstrating good 'sporting' conduct and fair play when attending the College's art, drama, sporting events or other such school events.
- 4.3 Complying with applicable work health and safety and risk-management procedures.
- 4.4 Complying with any reasonable directions given by the College's staff.
- 4.5 Showing appropriate care and regard for the property of the College and others. Any damage should be promptly reported to the College.
- 4.6 Dressing appropriately for the occasion.
- 4.7 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.

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 the Principal considers that 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):

8.2.1 A request that the relevant conduct immediately cease.

8.2.2 A written warning.

8.2.3 A Parent (or another relevant person) being banned from the College grounds, either for a particular period of time or permanently.

8.2.4 A Parent (or another relevant person) being excluded from College activities or events.

8.2.5 A requirement that a Parent (or another relevant person) only communicate with a nominated College representative.

8.2.6 Termination of the enrolment of a Parent's daughter.

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, or by demanding that a Parent immediately leave the College grounds (or a College activity or event).