



ST DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. ABOUT THIS CODE OF CONDUCT

St Dominic's College is a community founded on shared responsibility for the education and wellbeing of students. Strong, respectful partnerships between the College and families are essential to supporting student growth, learning and development.

To ensure such cooperation and support, this Code of Conduct outlines the College's expectations for a student's parents, stepparents, guardians, grandparents, extended family members and carers (collectively, **Parents**).

In developing this Code, the College recognises that Parents want the best for their children. At the same time, the College must balance the interests of all members of the school community, including students, Parents, and staff, and ensure a safe, respectful environment for everyone.

This Code does not seek to detail every possible interaction or scenario. Instead, it sets out general expectations to guide behaviour. It is intended to be practical, clear and non-adversarial and should be read alongside other relevant policies.

2. SUMMARY OF EXPECTATIONS

The College's expectations of Parents are summarised under five key principles:

- Support the educational ethos and values of the College
- Behave respectfully towards members of the College community
- Use technology and social media appropriately
- Be a responsible visitor and participants in College activities
- Raise grievances appropriately and constructively

3. SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL ETHOS AND VALUES OF THE COLLEGE

Parents are expected to support the College's educational ethos and values, model appropriate behaviour for students, and work with the College as it educates and provides pastoral care.

Parents can support the College and act as positive role models by, for example:

- complying with the College's policies, procedures, codes of conduct, rules and reasonable directions, and ensuring their child does the same;
- respecting the College as an inclusive community that welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and with differing needs;
- responding to College communications and requests for information or consent in a timely manner;
- encouraging their child's participation in the academic, sporting, co-curricular and faith life of the College (noting that some activities will be compulsory);
- supporting the College's commitment to developing a student's initiative, independence and sense of responsibility for their own lives and actions;
- supporting the College's approach to student learning, wellbeing and behaviour, including educational, pastoral and disciplinary responses;
- being responsive and cooperative when the College raises concerns about their child;
- raising concerns or grievances directly with the College in a timely and respectful way;
- keeping the College informed of matters relevant to the student's education, welfare or safety, including health, learning, behavioural or family circumstances;
- providing updated information where a student's needs or circumstances change, acknowledging that while the



College will consider such information and comply with its legal obligations, it may not be able to accommodate every request;

- informing the College of parenting arrangements, including court orders, while recognising that the College cannot act as an intermediary in parenting disputes; and
- avoiding gossip, speculation or unconstructive commentary about the College or its community, including on social media.

Parents are expected to ensure that other individuals involved in their child's life, such as relatives or carers, are aware of and comply with this Code when engaging with the College. This includes ensuring the health and safety of all members of our school community (including staff, students, Parents and alumni) and the wider community.

4. BEHAVE RESPECTFULLY TOWARDS MEMBERS OF OUR COLLEGE COMMUNITY

The College expects Parents to behave respectfully towards staff, students and other Parents at all times. This expectation applies to spoken and written communication, tone, body language, and conduct.

Examples of behaviour that is inconsistent with respectful engagement include (but are not limited to):

- rude, intimidating, offensive or derogatory language or behaviour;
- bullying, harassment, discrimination, victimisation or abuse. Please note that in addition to being a breach of this Code, such behaviour may also be unlawful;
- actual or threatened aggression or violence (verbal or non-verbal);
- behaviour that poses a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of others;
- defamatory statements or disrespectful comments;
- gossip, rumour or speculation;
- raising one's voice or using inappropriate or age-inappropriate language; and
- vexatious or bad-faith complaints.

5. USE TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA APPROPRIATELY

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

- 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);
- not take photos, videos or other recordings of a staff member or Parent without their consent, or of a 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 school community online without express consent;
- 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 may include an image or recording which shows a student in College uniform, or a member of the school community at the College or at a school activity or event, behaving inappropriately;
- not communicate with students from another family outside of the College, including by email or on social media, without prior consent from that student's Parent(s);
- not discuss confidential or sensitive College matters, including in relation to grievances about a particular staff member or student, online;
- obtain express permission to use the College's name, logo or insignia in any publication or online forum or group and not imply that such platforms or material is sponsored or endorsed by the College.



6. BE A RESPONSIBLE VISITOR AND PARTICIPANT

Parents must respect the College's risk-management and safety procedures when visiting the College or attending College activities.

Unless attending an event open to the wider community, accessing the uniform shop, or dropping off or collecting a child, Parents are required to report to Reception upon arrival and comply with sign-in and visitor procedures. Parents should only present to the College for an event or a pre-arranged meeting.

When attending College activities or events, hosted by or connected to the College, Parents are expected to:

- demonstrate respectful behaviour and fair play;
- comply with applicable health safety and risk-management requirements;
- follow reasonable directions given by College staff;
- respect College property and the property of others;
- dress appropriately for the occasion;
- not attend College events while under the influence of drugs or alcohol or being in the possession, sale or supply of the same;
- behave lawfully and responsibly; and
- ensure physical contact with students is appropriate, having regard to age and relationship.

When dropping off or collecting students, Parents must comply with traffic laws and relevant College traffic-management arrangements and take reasonable care to ensure the safety of others.

7. RAISE GRIEVANCES APPROPRIATELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY

The College recognises the importance of constructive dialogue and is committed to addressing genuine concerns in a fair and respectful manner. Grievances should be raised in accordance with the College's Complaints Handling Policy. In general, Parents are expected to:

- communicate respectfully, including in tone, language, and manner;
- not communicate with another student about an issue concerning their own child;
- not approach or attempt to discipline another family's child, unless they are attempting to restrain a student from causing a risk to themselves or others;
- raise concerns with the appropriate staff member in the first instance via approved channels;
- not present to the College without a pre-arranged appointment;
- seek to discuss concerns in person where appropriate, rather than relying solely on written communication;
- clearly articulate concerns and remain open to resolution;
- understand that while the College considers the interests of the Parent's child, the College must ultimately make decisions that take into account the interests of all students (and others who may be affected by the College's decisions);
- understand that staff may not always be able to respond immediately; and
- respect privacy obligations and understand that information about other students or staff may not be shared.

Parents have the right to pursue internal or external review options where available. However, persistent refusal to engage in respectful, constructive processes, or public airing of grievances in a manner that targets staff or students, is inconsistent with this Code.



8. CONSEQUENCES FOR BREACH OF THIS CODE

Where concerns arise about a Parent's conduct, the Principal may take action that is reasonable and proportionate, having regard to the nature and seriousness of the behaviour and the need to protect the wellbeing and safety of the College community. This may include one or more of the following:

- requesting that the behaviour cease;
- issuing a written warning;
- restricting a person's access to College grounds or activities;
- requiring communication to occur only through a nominated College representative; and
- taking action in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of Enrolment, including considering the termination of enrolment in serious or ongoing cases.

College staff and volunteers are entitled to take reasonable steps to protect their own health and wellbeing, including ending meetings, removing themselves from situations where conduct is inappropriate or unsafe, or asking the Parent to immediately leave the College activity or event.

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES

EREA NSW Related Policies, Procedures and Legislation including:

- EREA NSW Complaints Handling Policy
- EREA NSW Enrolment Policy
- EREA NSW Terms and Conditions of Enrolment

9.1. Document Version Control

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