

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Position statement

St Dominic's College strives to ensure that every effort is made to enhance the learning experience of our pupils through focusing on building positive relationships. It is the College's intention to create a safe learning environment free of fear and very much focused on developing a culture based on respecting boundaries, understanding rights and responsibilities relative to being a parent of a child at our school.

Preamble

Parents at St Dominic's College are expected to know the rules of the College and to behave accordingly. Parents enrol their children at St Dominic's College and in so doing, accept the rules and regulations of the College as given to them and as amended from time to time. This serves as a guide of expected behaviour of parents at the College.

This Code of Conduct applies to all parents, guardians and carers and is designed in such a way that it serves as a guideline for all interactions with staff, other parents and pupils at any school related event or function.

There is an expectation of support of the Parent Code of Conduct.

General principles include, but are not limited to:

1. Ensuring that no individual has their dignity or freedom compromised.
2. Ensuring that the rights of all our St Dominic's family members are protected.
3. Ensuring that an individual's right to privacy be acknowledged and protected.
4. Ensuring that broken relationships are mended through open and honest communication and with the intention to reconcile our difference of opinion.
5. Ensuring that we build a school community that focuses on improving the emotional well-being of all family members.
6. Ensuring that all members of our community are treated respectfully.
7. Ensuring that the dignity and worth of the St Dominic's family are affirmed through insisting on conduct that is courteous, considerate and co-operative.

Parent rights

St Dominic's College acknowledges the rights of parents to partner with the College in developing and growing their children to independence through the establishment of positive relationships.

To this end, it is important that parents are treated with the utmost respect by our entire staff contingent.

CORE VALUES

RESPECT

INTEGRITY

RESPONSIBILITY

COMPASSION

DISCIPLINE

We acknowledge that our parents should be listened to on matters relative to their child's growth and development.

Both, the College and parents acknowledge the right to confidentiality when dealing with sensitive issues.

It is important that all our parents are treated in a polite manner by the extended St Dominic's family that includes, but is not limited to the staff, pupils and parents that make up our family.

Parent responsibilities

This Parent Code of Conduct is to be read, understood and accepted as an addendum to the College's Code of Conduct signed on admission to the College.

St Dominic's College expects parents' support of our Catholic Ethos, Vision Statement and Mission Statement.

Parents are encouraged to support their children across all spheres of school life and demonstrate a willingness to be present at school activities, thereby placing you in a position to praise the efforts of your children.

Parents must acknowledge the importance of establishing positive relationships with their child's teachers in the understanding that any concerns may be addressed in a constructive manner and at the right time and in the correct place.

Parents are required to support the College in its endeavours to develop and create an environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.

Parents are required to acknowledge the rights of staff to confidentiality when dealing with sensitive issues.

Parents are asked to refrain from airing concerns publicly and more particularly, on any social media platform or similar.

Parents are expected to value the College and its reputation especially when engaging with a variety of social media platforms.

Parents are to ensure that whilst on the College's premises they are free from the influence of dagga and/or illegal substances (drugs).

Parents are to ensure that they act responsibly when consuming alcohol on the school premises, doing so in the appropriate designated area relative to the event or function that they are attending.

Parents are required to adhere to legislation governing smoking in public places.

Parents are required to comply with all applicable legislation as dictated by the State.

Parents are required to disclose fully and accurately any information required by the College when going through the admissions process.

Furthermore, parents are required to update their personal information as required by the College.

In terms of access to the College during school hours, parents are restricted from having access to teachers (unless by appointment) and certainly access to pupils is not permitted during official school hours. Should the need arise to deliver something for your child, then this can be dropped off at reception.

Parents are also advised that no access to a classroom is permitted without the teacher being present and certainly no service staff members will give parents access should this be requested of them.

Parents are asked to please clarify a child's version of an event with the College's view in order to bring about a peaceful solution to any issue.

Parents are required to correct their own child's behaviour in public where it could otherwise lead to conflict, aggressive behaviour or unsafe behaviour.

Parents are also to be made aware that vexatious comments (verbal or written) alleging improper conduct must be accompanied by reasonable evidence. In the case where reasonable grounds for suspecting such conduct is not forthcoming and the report is made with the sole intention of causing distress, these proven vexatious comments will be deemed to be a breach of the Parent Code of Conduct.

Involvement in the College's extra-mural programme offers an opportunity for children to enjoy the outdoor classroom and as such, parents have a responsibility to their children to provide positive reinforcement for their child's performance and effort demonstrating the highest standard of sportsmanship at all times.

Furthermore, parents are required to be supportive of the coaching staff and their decisions.

In order to support a peaceful and safe school environment, the College cannot tolerate parents, guardians or carers who:

- Engage in disruptive behaviour which interferes or threatens to interfere with the operation of a classroom, an employee's office, or any other area on the College campus, including sports fields.
- Use of offensive / vulgar / racist / unfair discriminatory language.
- Engage in threatening behaviour towards a member of staff, Governor, visitor, fellow parent or pupil either verbally, physically or through electronic media (including social media).
- Damage College property.
- Engage in communicating information in any manner which is defamatory, offensive or derogatory regarding the school or any of the stakeholders.
- Engage in physical aggression towards an adult or child.
- Approach a child in order to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their child.