

DOMINIC COLLEGE

A Catholic School in the Salesian Tradition



ENROLMENT POLICY

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Related Documents	Enrolment for Catholic Schools Policy (Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission)

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1. OUR PHILOSOPHY

Dominic College is a congregational Catholic co-educational College for students K-10. It is a Christ-centred learning community founded in the Salesian and Dominican traditions. The policies of the College, underpinned by the Gospel values, serve to promote the dignity and uniqueness of each human person.

The College is governed and administered in accordance with the traditions of the Salesians of Don Bosco. The College is a comprehensive, non-exclusive school with a non-competitive academic enrolment entry.

Enrolment at Dominic College is an invitation to parents to work in authentic partnership with the College to develop their children as young people of faith, in a Catholic community of friendship and in an environment committed to educational excellence.

Priority enrolment will be offered on the basis of the faith of the applicant and their family, on previous ties with the College, the family's relationship with the College and broader Church and in particular, the needs of the family, the applicant and the College.

2. ENROLMENT PRINCIPLES

- The College works with and shares the common goals of the local mission of the Catholic Church; enrolment principles and practices are therefore aligned to and congruent with the Archdiocese of Hobart Enrolment Policy and guidelines.
- Students will only be accepted into the College and the enrolment sustained if parents and students are prepared to actively support the life, ethos, identity, directions and policies of the College.
- The enrolment process is an opportunity for the College and families of applicants to discuss and reflect on mutual values.
- The selection of students and ongoing maintenance of the student's enrolment will be made by the College in terms of the needs of the College, its ability to cater for the needs of the prospective or enrolled student, other students, staff and other people at the College and in compliance with relevant State and Federal legislation.
- The Catholic purpose and identity of the College promotes equity and accessibility to enrolment. The acceptance of applications from economically disadvantaged families will be dependent upon the capacity of the College to support the number of such families enrolled or making enrolment.
- In the event of transfer applications from other Catholic schools, parents will be made aware that consultation will occur between schools and transfer from their current Catholic school will be on the recommendation of the Principal of their school of origin.

- All enrolment applications must be supported by the relevant and requested documentation (as per the Enrolment Procedures); and the acceptance of an application form will not guarantee an enrolment interview or an offer of enrolment, irrespective of the date of lodgement of the application.
- Enrolment will depend on a number of factors which may include the academic and social balance of the students currently enrolled, the gender ratio, availability of spaces, the ability of the College to provide a suitable pattern of studies, the capacity of parents and the student to support the ethos and expectations of the College.
- The Principal has the discretion to accept students as a matter of priority who are deemed to have special circumstances, especially those who are in some way disadvantaged or marginalised.
- Enrolment is ultimately at the discretion of the Principal; the College reserves the right to take into account the College's ability to serve the educational needs of each child applying for enrolment.
- Enrolment is subject to families accepting and fulfilling the General Terms and Conditions at Dominic College.
- Where year levels are oversubscribed for enrolment, a fair and equitable waitlist system will operate based on both date of application, enrolment priority criteria and the discretion of the Principal.
- Discontinuation of enrolment of students by the College will be undertaken in alignment with the College's Exclusion Policy.
- The College will consult with parents and students where appropriate to do so about any issues which may impact on prospective or continuing enrolment and parents/guardians are required to co-operate with reasonable consultation and provide accurate and relevant information on an ongoing basis to ensure the information is current.

3. ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Additional needs are particular needs of the Student that are not required by the majority of students and which may exist because of a medical condition or educational/learning/behavioural difficulty/status. Additional needs might require adjustments to be made to the way the College provides services to the Student.

Depending on the additional needs, the College may not be reasonably able to accommodate the student's additional needs. This may be for a number of reasons such as because

- Of the impact on the student, other students, teachers or other people at the College;
- The cost would create an unjustifiable hardship. The cost involved in providing specialised skills not otherwise available, additional staff, additional facilities or modifying existing facilities may not be possible because of funding availability. Charging parents additional

fees to compensate for the cost may not be reasonable but is an option that the College would consult with parents about;

- Impact on the reputation of the College and other existing or future enrolments in cases where the additional needs relate to behavioural issues which is inconsistent with the College ethos and values.

Examples of where additional needs may not be able to be accommodated may include

- Physical behaviours which may cause unreasonable risks to the health and safety of teachers and other students such as biting, punching and /or throwing objects, swearing, threatening or intimidating language or gestures, harassment or stalking;
- External behaviour that might result in police charges;
- Learning difficulties or extension which may require additional staff, staff with particular skills or for particular staff to work additional hours.

Where additional needs cannot be reasonably accommodated the student may not be accepted for enrolment or an existing student's enrolment may be terminated.

4. MAIN ENROLMENT ENTRY POINTS

Dominic College operates on a resource base to meet the educational needs of a specified enrolment number; the College seeks to keep student numbers close to this target.

Dominic College has two main entry points of enrolment: Kindergarten and Year 7. An entry point at Year 3 has been necessitated by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Commission to accommodate structures in some other Catholic schools in Hobart.

All Catholic schools in the Hobart work co-operatively in the matter of Kindergarten and Year 7 enrolments to ensure that applicants are given due consideration and the broadest opportunity to find a place in a Catholic school

KINDERGARTEN ENTRY POINT

Priority for enrolment at Dominic College at Kindergarten Entry Point is given to students whose applications are lodged on or before the annual closing date (published on the College website and in the broader community) and who meet one or more of the following criteria which are listed in order of priority:

- Children of Practising Catholic families
- Baptised Catholics
- Siblings of children already attending Dominic College
- Children of Old Scholars of the College
- Children of employees of the College

- Siblings of an Old Scholar
- Attending Dominic Early Learning Centre (DELC)
- Children from Orthodox or other Christian denominations
- Siblings of children enrolling in other grades at the College

If there is not space for a student then priority will be given according to the date of receipt application for enrolment.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the appropriate State Government legislation, the minimum commencement age for children entering Kindergarten is four years of age, on or before 1st January in the year of commencement.

Specific protocols exist for the consideration of early entry into Kindergarten before the prescribed entry age. For further information refer to the Department of Education:

www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/programs-and-initiatives/extended-learning-gifted-highly-able-students/

YEAR 3 ENTRY POINT

Priority for enrolment at Dominic College at Year 3 Entry Point is given to students whose applications meet one or more of the following criteria which are listed in order of priority:

- Children of Practising Catholic families
- Baptised Catholics
- Siblings of children already attending Dominic College
- Children of Old Scholars of the College
- Children of employees of the College
- Siblings of an Old Scholar
- Children attending a Catholic Primary School
- Children from Orthodox or other Christian denominations
- Siblings of children enrolling concurrently in other grades at the College
- Students living in the countryside who wish to avail themselves of opportunities on offer at the College not accessible in their current school community.

YEAR 7 ENTRY POINT

Students who are already enrolled at Dominic College will receive automatic entry into the next year. Therefore students completing Year 6 at Dominic College will have a guaranteed place reserved in Year 7 the following year.

When spaces remain after automatic entry, priority for enrolment at Dominic College at Year 7 Entry Point is given to students whose applications are lodged on or before the annual closing date (published on the College website and in the broader community) and who meet one or more of the following criteria which are listed in order of priority:

- Children of Practising Catholic families
- Baptised Catholics
- Siblings of children already attending Dominic College
- Children of Old Scholars of the College
- Children of employees of the College
- Siblings of an Old Scholar
- Children attending a Catholic Primary School
- Children from Orthodox or other Christian denominations
- Siblings of children enrolling concurrently in other grades at the College
- Students living in the countryside who wish to avail themselves of opportunities on offer at the College not accessible in their current school community.

OTHER ENTRY POINTS: PREP-YEAR 6 AND YEAR 8-10

Applications for enrolment can be submitted at any time, Prep-Year 6 and Year 8-10. Generally, enrolments will not be accepted in Year 10 after Easter.

It is expected that prior to entry into Preparatory, a child will be five years of age on or before 1st January in the year of commencement.

Flexibility regarding commencement ages may be considered in the case of interstate transfers where the student has already enrolled in an equivalent grade level, noting in particular that the names for different grades may vary from state to state.

5. TRANSITION OF YEAR 10 STUDENTS TO YEAR 11 ENTRY POINT

Guilford Young College is the senior extension of Dominic College for Years 11 and 12. Whilst operating as separate schools, the Colleges are aligned in a single, exclusive coeducational pathway for Dominic students.

Dominic College works collaboratively with Guilford Young College to transition, as far as possible, its full Year 10 cohort into Guilford Young College to commence Year 11.