

St Dominic's College



Established 1959

DOMINUS LUX MEA

the Lord is my light







Contents

4	Mission Statement	13	Social Justice
5	Introduction A Brief History	15	Pastoral Care
6	Our Forefather	16	Academic Program
7	Edmund Rice Education Australia	19	Educational Support at St Dominic's
8	College Life: House Pride	21	Indigenous Education
11	Spirituality	22	Sport at St Dominic's
		25	Co-Curricular Activities
		26	St Dominic's College Uniform
		27	College Diary College Discipline Policy Tuition Fees



Established 1959

belonging
compassion
opportunity
discovery
success

St Dominic's is a community that creates a caring environment, allowing each individual member to feel valued, through the context of boys education; experiencing belonging, compassion, opportunity, discovery and success in the Catholic tradition in the spirit of Edmund Rice.

St Dominic's mission statement

DOMINUS LUX MEA

the Lord is my light



Introduction

St Dominic's College is a private Catholic Secondary School, which has a commitment to creating a caring environment where excellence in Education is evident within the Catholic Tradition and the Spirit of Edmund Rice.

The College aims to provide an environment conducive to the total development of each boy. The College endeavours to contribute to the creation of a caring community, where each person is respected and encouraged to strive to achieve their personal best.



Established 1959

A brief history

The history of St Dominic's began in 1959, on the site of the old Sisters of St Joseph's convent in High St, Penrith, under our founding Principal, Br Brian Jeffers of the Congregation of Christian Brothers. It was a humble beginning, and the following year with Br M D Surawski as Principal, St Dominic's was moved to its present site in Parker St. The College grew rapidly, providing quality education to both primary and secondary students. Primary classes were discontinued in 1980 to cope with increasing secondary enrolments.

Co-education in Years 11 and 12 was also introduced from 1978 to 1985 to cater for the demand for Catholic Secondary Education until McCarthy Senior Catholic College opened. For some time after this, St Dominic's catered for Years 7 to 10, but again become a comprehensive 7 to 12 Catholic College for boys in 1999.

Edmund Rice

1594 - 1662



Our Forefather

The story and legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers, is integral to the life of the College.

A wealthy merchant in Waterford, Ireland, in the late 18th century, Edmund Rice was happily married and a father. Through suffering the personal tragedy of the death of his young wife, Edmund Rice was sustained by his faith. His compassion and thirst for justice moved him to dedicate his energy and wealth to educating the very poor and illiterate youth in Waterford. He inspired other men to follow him, and around him they formed his religious order of the Congregation of the Christian Brothers.

Edmund sought to raise up the poor through education so that they could take their rightful place in a society oppressed by institutionalised injustice and ignorance. His gospel spirituality and passion for justice shaped his vision for the liberating power of a holistic education.

His heroic effort to serve the poor of his country was recognised in his Beatification in Rome in 1996. His legacy spread through Ireland and England and eventually to all continents.

St Dominic's College is proud of Edmund Rice's influence on its history of over fifty years of service to the youth of the outer west of Sydney. St Dominic's education for Social Justice is a mark of its faithfulness to Blessed Edmund's spirituality.



Edmund Rice Education Australia

In 2007 the Christian Brothers schools throughout Australia amalgamated as a group under the banner of Edmund Rice Education Australia. St Dominic's is one of 37 such schools, operating under EREA's governance and thus ensuring that Edmund's values and vision for Catholic Education endure. These values are contained in the Charter for Edmund Rice Schools and are highlighted in the Charter's Four Touchstones.



Liberating Education:

We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope filled and free to build a better world for all.



Gospel Spirituality:

We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.



Justice and Solidarity:

We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and the Earth itself.



Inclusive Community:

Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.



College Life: House Pride

To capture the rich spirit and history of St Dominic's, it was important to the College for each house to have a meaningful historic name. The College Houses are an important part of College life, and are represented in house-based homerooms, uniforms and social justice initiatives.

The Annual House Cup is proudly presented as an accumulation of house points from all the sport, academic and co-curricular activities throughout the year. The four colours represent our four College houses and the house banners are present at all forms of inter-school competitions.

SURAWSKI

Recognises Br Surawski who was a founding Principal and leader of the College through its first building program, he is responsible for many of the traditions of the College including the famous Blue and White of the St Dominic's Uniform.

DHARUK

Recognises the Aboriginal Nation of the Penrith area and the respect St Dominic's College has for the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is located. The College prides itself on the place we have made for the Aboriginal Culture in our students education.

TENCH

Recognises Watkin Tench a historian of the First Fleet and discoverer of the Nepean basin, it was Tench who was responsible for bringing the European Culture to the place we call home.

RICE

Recognises Blessed Edmund Rice the founder of the Christian Brothers, his values of justice and equality underpin the foundations of every aspect of the College and the Community that exists within its walls.

Being part of a house team encourages St Dominic's students to share their successes and feel a sense of belonging with their peers. House pride develops student self-esteem and support networks between year groups.





Spirituality

Spirituality is a central part of the St Dominic's College life. Our College lives and grows as a community of faith, by fostering a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

1. Areas of study with engaging and academic content.

For Years 7-10, the beliefs, values, history and traditions of the Catholic Church are systematically studied and examined in both their historical context and that of the modern world. For Years 11 and 12, the HSC courses in Studies of Religion are offered alongside a non HSC course in Catholic Studies.

2. Fostering one's relationship with God through meaningful experiences.

Eucharist and Reconciliation are significant sacramental liturgies that are central to the spiritual life of St Dominics. They are also supported by other rituals, making use of symbols and prayers designed to help all perceive God at work in all of us and in our life experiences. Liturgy and Prayer are undertaken as a College, pastoral groups, chapel classes and small groups.

3. Knowledge and appreciation of one's self and others through reflection.

College formation and retreat experiences are tools used by the College to help students reflect and grow as young Christian men, drawing on their experiences and knowledge gained throughout the year.

With these spiritual aspects being the central focus of the daily life at our College, it is an expectation that all students who seek enrolment at St Dominic's College will engage in a positive and fully participatory manner to all three parts of the Religious Education Curriculum.



Through their participation in the Social Justice program, our students are empowered to be advocates for those less fortunate and to become agents for positive change in the world.





Social Justice

We, as an Edmund Rice College, are called to action. The value of Social Justice rises out of the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice and requires from us a commitment to serve those in our community who are disadvantaged or marginalised.

The Social Justice program at St Dominic's educates our young men about the many injustices and causes of those injustices in our local and global communities. Through their participation in the Social Justice program, our students are empowered to be advocates for those less fortunate and to become agents for positive change in the world.

In Years 7-9 the program is one of 'Service to Others'. The students are required to complete a specific number of hours of activities that are of service to others in their communities. Students are also required to complete a reflective component, which enables them to assess their service activities.

Students in Years 10-12 participate in the 'Call to Action' program, which is more in-depth and seeks to further challenge these young men. This program requires the students to complete a specific number of community and College service activities.

The Social Justice program is a compulsory component of student's education at St Dominic's College. Each young man is required to participate in the Social Justice program in each year of their study at the College. Completion of the senior program, 'Call to Action' is a pre-requisite for a College reference.





Pastoral Care

St Dominic's College is a community that values the worth and dignity of each person, and places an emphasis on instilling respect for oneself. It is these values that underpin our pastoral care policies and strategies.

The College creates a safe and harmonious environment for the learning and character formation of each student. It works at developing each student's sense of worth and respect for the rights of others. All of our staff members are passionate about knowing and caring for the students.

Key staff are specifically assigned to support your son:

- The Director of Pastoral Care;
- The Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator of each Year Cohort;
- Homeroom teachers;
- School counsellors;
- Coaches and managers of many sporting and co-curricular activities.

The following are proven strategies for delivering pastoral care:

- Vertical streamed homerooms (a mix of some 18 students from Years 7-12);
- Pastoral programs specific to each year, including camps;
- Recognising and rewarding through various awards, eg. academic excellence, co-curricular achievement and participation in service to others;
- Administering the measures contained in the anti-bullying policy;
- Monitoring students through the College Level system;
- Conducting the activities of the College House system;
- Conducting after school study classes;
- Maintaining close liaison with the home;
- Fostering student leadership (SRC, House Captains and College Prefects).

All of these strategies teach students to relate appropriately to one another, form positive relationships, develop their various talents, express their personalities and grow in self discipline.



Academic Program

St Dominic's College encourages academic excellence and supports all students to perform to the best of their abilities in all academic areas.

We recognise the need for a broad curriculum to cater for individual student requirements. Students at St Dominic's study the NSW Board of Studies prescribed curriculum.

Technology and Learning at the College

In 2016, St Dominic's introduced the 'Bring Your Own Device' or BYOD program for Year 7 students. The BYOD program requires students to bring a school recommended device to the classroom for the purpose of learning.

Technology has become fundamental to the world in which these students live, and so it should be integral to their learning lives as well. Using technology in the classroom increases educational engagement and will make learning part of students' lives.

St Dominic's teachers are constantly developing new and innovative ways to incorporate this technology into their lessons, and along with the classroom technology already available, the BYOD program encourages engagement and motivation for students in the classroom.

More information on the BYOD program is available at www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au

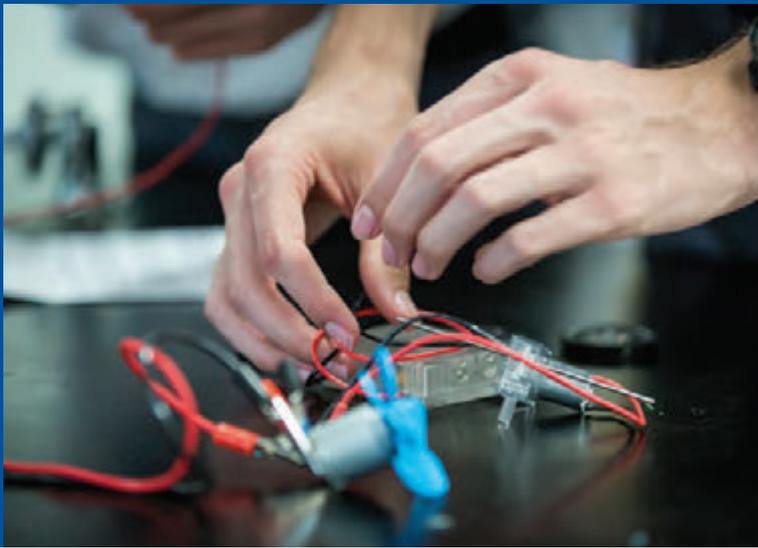
YEAR 7-8 CURRICULUM:

The Year 7 cohort is arranged into core classes that enable students to settle in to their new secondary school environment, and get the most out of their learning in this important first year. The number of staff teaching the students is minimised to support the transition of students from primary to high school, with at least one teacher assigned to three or more courses.

This has proven to be a successful way to assist the students in a smooth transition to the College, and allows our staff the greater capacity to get to know each student and tailor the curriculum to their needs. In Year 8, the students are introduced to the normal secondary school timetable.

Subjects studied by all students:

- Religious Education
- PD/H/PE
- English
- Visual Arts
- Mathematics
- Music
- Science
- History & Geography
- Technology and Applied Sciences
- Japanese (Year 8)



YEAR 9-10 CURRICULUM:

Year 9 and 10 students choose a subject combination that satisfies the requirements for the Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

Courses studied by all students:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- PD/H/PE
- Australian History & Geography

Students then choose two courses from a range of elective courses. In recent years, students have been able to choose from:

- Commerce
- Music
- Drama
- Japanese
- Industrial Technology – Timber
- Industrial Technology – Graphics
- Industrial Technology – Metals
- Industrial Technology – Building and Construction
- Photography
- Visual Arts
- Information Software Technology
- Physical Activity and Sport Studies
- Digital Media
- Food Technology / Hospitality

YEAR 11-12 COURSES OFFERED:

English is the only compulsory Higher School Certificate subject. In addition students at St Dominic's study at least one unit of Religious Education. To be eligible for the award of the Higher School Certificate, students must satisfactorily complete at least 12 units in their Preliminary study pattern and at least 10 units in their HSC study pattern. Early entries to Stage 6 programmes are available in Mathematics, Construction and Hospitality.

Examples of courses offered:

- **Religion** – Studies of Religion (1 or 2 Unit), Catholic Studies (1 Unit)
- **English** – English Studies, English Standard, English Advanced or English Extension
- **Mathematics** – General Mathematics, Mathematics, or Extension Mathematics
- **Science** – Physics, Chemistry, Senior Science, Biology
- **H.S.I.E** – Business Studies, Legal Studies, Economics, Work Studies, Ancient and Modern History
- **PD/H/PE** – Personal Development Health and Physical Education, Sport Lifestyle and Recreation (1 & 2 Unit) Sport Coaching (Rugby League)
- **Languages** – Japanese
- **Technology** – Information Processes and Technology, Industrial Technology Graphics/Metal/Timber, Software Design Development and Engineering Studies, Food Technology, Design and Technology
- **Creative and Performing Arts** – Music 1 Unit, Music 2 Unit, Drama, Visual Arts, Photography, Visual Design
- **Vocation Education (VET)** – Construction, Hospitality, Information Technology





Educational Support at St Dominic's

Students with special needs:

Students with learning support needs are identified using information from parents, primary schools and the results of diagnostic tests and NAPLAN in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students at the College are taught in mixed ability classes. We have an excellent learning support team that assists the boys in and out of class.

Specific programs targeting literacy and numeracy are also conducted in junior years. Students in all years are able to access Special Provisions for examinations where appropriate. Individual plans are formulated for students by the Learning Support Staff, parents, the student and representative class teachers.

Students with learning support are closely monitored by all class teachers who work collaboratively with the Learning Support Staff under the guidance of the Learning Support Coordinator.

Accelerated courses and afternoon study programme:

From time to time, programs are conducted during the year to develop and extend the skills of students with special aptitude in curriculum areas. These include the College Band, other musical groups and various interschool competitions such as debating, mock trial, Tournament of the Minds and University extension courses.

Students may be accelerated in consultation with staff, parents and the students themselves. Stage 5 (Year 9-10) Mathematics students have been accelerated to H.S.C courses. After school study classes are also held for Mathematics, Science, English, Languages and General Study (at no additional cost).

Outdoor Education:

All activities are supervised by accredited outside education staff and staff from the College. The College Camps offered to Year 7-10 students provide a chance to experience the outdoors while also building on the development work made in the classroom. The camps are designed to foster personal character development as students discover themselves.

Careers Education:

The College has a Careers Adviser to provide information and advice that will allow students to explore and understand their post school employment, training and further education options.

Discussions focus on the variety of pathways to achieving student goals, with a focus on subject selection advice, employer expectations, employment application processes and entry requirements for TAFE, Private Colleges, Universities, Defence and Emergency Services. Parents and students from all year groups are encouraged to contact the Careers Adviser to discuss pathways and utilise the variety of recourses available.



St Dominic's College is committed to working with and walking alongside the Indigenous people, advocating justice and promoting reconciliation.





Indigenous Education

St Dominic's College positively promotes and encourages the enrolment of students that identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The College is committed to support these students on a daily basis and as such, employs a full-time Indigenous Education Officer. Their role is to coordinate various programs and cultural events within the school, as well as provide support and mentoring for the boys, with particular focus on learning outcomes. Some outstanding results in NAPLAN can be attributed to this focus. The College facilitates a number of internal and external programs for our boys to assist them with academic support, career pathways and overall personal wellbeing.

The students are supported in connecting with their culture and extending their knowledge. We also encourage our students to participate in our dance group who not only perform at our own events but have the opportunity to perform at public venues and occasions.

With the support of the elders in our Local Aboriginal Community, the College as a whole celebrates important events to commemorate and reconcile the histories of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait. At St Dominic's all students are given the opportunity to experience and learn about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditions and culture. The boys are supported and engaged in building their knowledge and participating in activities at their year group Reflection Days.



Sport at St Dominic's

St Dominic's College has a long and proud tradition of sporting competitions. A full and comprehensive range of sporting programs and opportunities are offered to all of our students. Our involvement in the MCS (Metropolitan Catholic Schools), CCC (Combined Catholic Colleges) and knockout competitions is seen as an integral part of the boys' education.

MCS COMPETITIONS:

MCS competition provides an official pathway to State and National selection in numerous sports including:

- Swimming
- Athletics
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Basketball
- Football
- Rugby League
- Touch Football
- Rugby Union
- Australian Rules
- Chess



STATE KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS:

- Cricket – Berg Shield and Downie Trophy
- Football– Bill Turner Cup and NSW CCC Cup
- Touch Football – All Schools Knockout
- Basketball – NSW CCC Championship and National Championship
- AFL – GWS Cup
- Futsal – Sydney Regional Knockout
- Rugby League – Panther Trophy, NSWRL State Knockout and CCC Cup
- Triathlon – NSW All Schools Carnival

RECREATIONAL SPORTS:

Thursday sport is a compulsory part of the College's program and includes 'In College Competitions' as well as a wide variety of activities which caters for all interests and abilities. Students have the opportunity to participate in a different sport each term. Examples include:

- Golf
- Adventure Golf
- Rock Climbing
- Tennis
- Cables - Water Park
- Fitness
- Indoor Cricket
- Swimming
- Roller Blading
- Squash
- Lawn Bowls
- Aqua Golf
- Ice Skating





Co-Curricular Activities

St Dominic's College offers a variety of co-curricular activities that students participate in. They complement content that students learn during regular classes, and support intellectual, emotional, social, moral, creative and physical development. Benefits of co-curricular activities include social skills, time management and developing self-esteem.

Students at St Dominic's have the opportunity to participate in the following co-curricular activities:

- Student Representative Council
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Debating
- Chess
- Drama
- St Vincent de Paul
- Interschool and Social Chess
- Amnesty International
- Guitar Ensemble
- Sound Crew
- Mock Trial
- Public Speaking
- Tournament of Minds
- Academic Competitions
- Social Justice Group
- College Choir
- Clean Up Australia Schools Day
- Red Cross Blood Bank
- Music Ensemble
- First Aid Courses

St Dominic's College Uniform

The St Dominic's school uniform is a symbol of pride in our school and its place in the community. Correct uniform is to be worn by students at all times, including travelling to and from school.

Incorrect uniform items will be confiscated by the Director of Pastoral Care. All articles of clothing should be clearly labelled. No visible jewellery is permitted. School caps are to be worn for all outdoor activities, and sport uniform is to be worn on Thursdays. A black leather belt is to be worn as part of both the senior and junior uniforms.

JUNIOR SUMMER UNIFORM (TERMS 1 & 4)

- Grey College shorts (optional but recommended)
- Short sleeve shirt (Victorian grey with official badge embroidered on pocket)
- Grey long socks (school colours on top). If long trousers are worn, grey or black short socks are acceptable (not ankle length)
- Lace-up black hard leather shoes (must be able to be polished, not in jogger style)

JUNIOR WINTER UNIFORM (Terms 2 & 3)

- College blazer (orders taken in November of the previous year)
- Grey College shirt
- Grey College trousers
- Grey or black socks are acceptable (not ankle length)
- College tie (to be done up at the neck)
- Midnight blue knitted woollen jumper with crest may be worn in addition to the blazer (not instead of)
- Lace-up black hard leather shoes (must be able to be polished, not in jogger style)
- A College scarf may be worn as part of the uniform

SENIOR SUMMER UNIFORM (Terms 1 & 4)

- Grey College trousers, shorts optional
- If shorts are worn, grey College socks must be worn, otherwise black or grey socks are acceptable (not ankle length)
- Lace-up black hard leather shoes (must be able to be polished, not in jogger style)
- White College shirt with monogrammed pocket

SENIOR WINTER UNIFORM (Terms 2 & 3)

- Senior blazer
- Grey College trousers
- Grey or black socks (not ankle style)
- Lace-up black hard leather shoes (must be able to be polished, not in jogger style)
- White College shirt with monogrammed pocket
- Senior Tie
- A College scarf may be worn as part of the uniform
- Midnight blue knitted woollen jumper with crest may be worn in addition to the Blazer (not instead of)

PE / SPORTS UNIFORM:

All students must purchase a College Cap. The College has a 'no hat, no play' policy in open areas. The PE / Sports uniform includes:

- House Sports T-Shirt (St Dominic's College issue only)
- Sports Shorts, royal blue with the College crest (St Dominic's College issue only)
- Blue and white College socks (St Dominic's College issue only)
- Blue and white College tracksuit (optional)
- College Cap

College Diary

The College Diary is an integral part of Pastoral Care and the greater College experience. Each student is presented with the official College Diary at the start of the year and this becomes the main channel of communications between staff and parents.

As well as acting as a communication tool, the diary is also used as an organisational tool with it being compulsory for all homework and assignments to be written in at the completion of each class. The Diary is checked each week by both parents and home room teachers to ensure that it is being used appropriately and that all communications are received.

College Discipline Policy

St Dominic's uses various levels of discipline within our Pastoral Care System, ensuring that student misbehaviour is met with appropriate and effective disciplinary consequences. In consultation with the College Executive, teachers and parents, students are required to complete a range of corrective activities, from recess clean up to afternoon detentions. Suspensions are only used in the most extreme cases, and in consultation with teachers, parents, students and Executive staff.



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Tuition Fees

The fees for the year are available on the College website: www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au

The College tuition fees are all inclusive with no added extras throughout the year. They include all excursions, sport, camps and Reflection Days. This enables families to spread the financial payments over the four terms of the school year.

The fees are divided and charged across four terms of the school year. Parents are encouraged to set up payment of tuition fees as a regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly payment, to make your household budget easier. Payments can be made in a variety of ways at the Finance Office between 8.00am and 3.30pm on school days, or online via Credit Card or Bpay.

Financial Hardship: There is a fair and compassionate process for those parents, who, through genuine financial hardship, are unable to pay all or part of the College Fees. The Principal and the College Fee Committee consider such cases. Confidentiality is assured, and application forms are available from the Business Manager.

Any family experiencing difficulty is encouraged to contact us as early as possible to discuss the options available.

Enrolment Policy: The College endeavours to take on as many students as it can each year, ultimately however there is not always room for all who apply. As such the College holds the right to determine enrolment intake based on the College Enrolment Policy which is shown on the College website www.stdominics.nsw.edu.au Preference is given to local Catholic families.



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