



VISION STATEMENT

Dominican School in partnership with families, is a community which creates opportunities for encountering life to the full – in all its personal, religious, ecological, and cultural richness. Dominican School is a welcoming Christ-centered community bound by the Dominican Charism – VERITAS.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the position of the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools in relation to the enrolment of children at Dominican School.

POLICY

Dominican School warmly welcomes all Catholic families, as well as families from other Christian denominations, faith traditions, and non-religious backgrounds who are willing to embrace and respect the ethos, values, and the liturgical and sacramental practices of the Catholic Church within the life of our school community.

AIM:

As a result of this policy, the school will:

- have a systematic and identifiable procedure for the enrolment and admission of students
- ensure that prospective families and the wider community have a clear understanding of the school's enrolment principles and practices.

PROCEDURE:

At Dominican School, we are committed to supporting families in the faith formation and education of their children. We encourage parents to consider a Catholic education as a valuable opportunity to nurture their child's spiritual, academic, and personal development. The unique elements of a Catholic education, including the values, traditions, and responsibilities that come with being part of a Catholic school community, are communicated to families through our enrolment process, including our school prospectus and initial enquiries.

Enrolment at Dominican School

General Principles

- As a Catholic school that welcomes all families, Dominican School invites enrolment applications from those who are willing to support the school's mission and Catholic ethos.
- No child will be denied enrolment based on a family's genuine inability to pay full school fees.
- Enrolment is subject to a family's ongoing acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined in the 'Parent Declaration' section of the Application for Enrolment and the formal Acceptance of Offer of Enrolment.

- Enrolment applications are accepted at any time and must be submitted using the official 'Application for Enrolment' form, available from the School Office.
- Due to the high demand for enrolment at Dominican School, we recommend submitting your child's Application for Enrolment well in advance. It is important that siblings of existing students enrol as soon as possible.
- Offers of enrolment are confirmed following an enrolment interview with the Principal (or APRIM) and the enrolling child's parents/guardians.
- The enrolment interview provides an opportunity to discuss the school's philosophy, programs, and expectations, as well as the parents' aspirations for their child's education.
- Families are encouraged to attend a school tour prior to applying for enrolment.
- The Principal considers factors such as class availability, and overall class composition before making an enrolment offer.

Reception Enrolment – Term 1 and Term 3

- Children who turn five **on or before 30 April** will begin school on the first day of **Term 1** and will complete **four terms in Reception**.
- Children who turn five **between 1 May and 31 October** have the option to begin school on the first day of **Term 3** and will complete **six terms in Reception**.
- Children whose birthday falls **between 1 November and 31 December** are not eligible to start school until the following year.
- The minimum age for starting school is **four years and nine months**.

Enrolment Process

1. Upon receipt of the application form and fee, you will receive an Acknowledgement of Enrolment Application letter. It is preferable that you lodge the application at least 24 months prior to your child's commencement.
2. Approximately 18 months preceding the year of commencement you will be contacted to attend an interview with our Leadership. This interview takes approximately 30 minutes and requires your child to be present.
3. Following your enrolment interview you may receive an Offer of Enrolment, including a Letter of Offer and an Acceptance of Enrolment Agreement for your consideration.
4. On acceptance of the Enrolment Offer, your child will be confirmed as a future student of Dominican School.
5. In the term prior to your child's commencement, you will receive information detailing our 'Little Dominicans' Transition to School program.

Enrolment Criteria

In circumstances where demand for enrolment exceeds available places, the following priority criteria will guide the enrolment process. The Principal may exercise discretion for families with special pastoral circumstances.

Decisions about enrolments are informed by the following criteria:

- **Baptised Catholic children** within the local parish community.
- **Siblings of current students** whose families actively support the school's Catholic ethos.
- **Children already attending a Catholic primary school** whose families have demonstrated commitment to Catholic education (for Catholic middle and secondary schools).
- **Baptised Catholic children and their siblings** relocating from rural communities.
- **Children already enrolled in a Catholic school** whose families have shown ongoing support for Catholic values and education.
- **Children of Catholic families** who do not meet the above criteria or who are from outside the designated local parish community.

Dominican School welcomes families from diverse backgrounds who respect and value the Catholic ethos, ensuring a faith-filled and inclusive school environment.

Related Documents

- Catholic Education South Australia Enrolment Policy
- Catholic Education South Australia Enrolment Procedure

DATE FOR REVIEW

Implemented	March 2025
Ratified by School Board	March 2025
Last Reviewed	March 2025
Next Review	March 2028