



St Dominic's
Sixth Form College

Mission and Ethos Policy

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St. Dominic's is a Roman Catholic Sixth Form College committed to the personal and spiritual growth of all its members based on Christian values, academic excellence and high quality pastoral care.

Context

As a Roman Catholic Sixth Form College, founded on the person, example and inspiration of Jesus Christ, we believe that:

- All human persons are made in the image and likeness of God, with a unique value and dignity.
- All human persons are of equal worth and all have a contribution to make to the community. The Gospel values of love, justice, peace and reconciliation should be affirmed and celebrated.
- Education concerns the whole person; body, mind and spirit - and enables each person's God given talents and skills to be used for the benefit of all creation.
- We all have a responsibility to build relationships within our community and reach out to the disadvantaged in the wider world.
- God can be found in friend and stranger.
- Our common human nature enables us to respect the diversity of every faith and none and culture in our College.

St. Dominic's aims to make this vision a reality – the principles outlined above must be lived and experienced, and all members of the College are expected to play a full and active part in putting these values into practice.

Our Mission and Ethos

"You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done for you. In all truth I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, no messenger is greater than the one who sent him" (John 13:13-16)

The above verses, taken from John's Gospel, explain very clearly our Mission as a Roman Catholic Sixth Form College. As servants of Christ, we assert the primacy of the spiritual and moral life, the dignity of the person, the importance of community, the pursuit of academic excellence and our commitment to caring, social justice and the common good as the visible fruits of the faith. The Gospel is at the heart of the work of the College and we serve one another in the knowledge that we only have one teacher, Jesus He whom we call the Christ.

St. Dominic's is a confidently Catholic community within a multi-faith setting. Our community is based on the theological virtues of faith, hope and love; developing each individual intellectually, emotionally and spiritually to achieve their full potential.

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."
John 10:10

To achieve this, we will:

- Engender an inclusive, welcoming, supportive community where everyone is valued.
- Prepare students to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives as responsible and responsive global citizens who uphold both Gospel and British values and contribute to the Common Good.
- Provide an exceptional, relevant education which encourages the development of the whole person, inspired by the Dominican tradition.
- Promote a caring environment, rooted in the virtues of service, kindness, humility, gratitude and respect.
- Work together for the benefit of each person as well as the wider community.
- Recognise, celebrate and treasure, without exception, the unique gifts and dignity of each person, ensuring equality and fairness for all, as found in the teaching and example of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Key Components of the College

The Chaplaincy Team

The Chaplaincy Team is a central part of the College community and our Chaplain organises a weekly Mass in partnership with a designated Core RE group. The Principal has oversight of engaging local and diocesan clergy and arranges the schedule for the year ready for September each year. There are additional 'low masses' during the year to mark various feasts and high days with Mass celebrated in the Chapel at 7.30am.

Every morning, staff and students are invited to participate in Morning Prayer through the daily prayer email sent by the College Chaplain. All 8.30am lessons start with a prayer. Throughout the year, there are worship opportunities to help students and staff to explore their faith including trips, visits and numerous social justice events. In addition, the Chaplaincy Team is there to offer support to students and staff should they require it through a variety of different programmes.

Core Religious Education

The College provides a Core RE programme for all students. 'To Live is to Change' is the theme for both year groups, based on these famous words of Cardinal Newman. They encapsulate the aims and objectives of the College's RE programme, which seeks to develop students' spiritual and moral dimensions within the context of respecting the faith traditions of all members of the College community.

Special Ministers of Holy Communion

Students and staff have the opportunity to become Special Ministers of Holy Communion. During their first year, those who wish to offer themselves for this ministry will be prepared by the Chaplaincy Team and commissioned during a ceremony at the College. They have the option to minister at the weekly Friday Mass and other times throughout the year.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held throughout the year. This is an opportunity for promoting serious thought which encourages a deepening of personal prayer and reflection in our lives.

Sunday evening email from the Principal

Each Sunday evening the Principal emails the student body with a reflection and prayer relevant to either the readings of the day from Mass or another significant global event that is happening at that time.

Volunteering

At St. Dominic's we provide extensive opportunities for students to carry out volunteer work in the local community. We have links with local primary schools, care homes, charities and hospitals. We subscribe to the Jack Petchey Programme and students receive certificates by way of acknowledgement for services to the community.

Charitable Works and works of social justice

In Catholic education, we are challenged by Christ to see his presence in our neighbour, especially the neighbour who suffers or who lacks what is essential to human flourishing. That is why the poor and the disadvantaged – in financial, social, academic or spiritual terms – must be our primary concern, so that they can live their lives to the full. Hence, the College promotes the notion of active involvement in giving as a way of enlivening College life and as a way of raising awareness of the needs of our neighbours. These activities are essentially initiated by students, but they will find support and encouragement from the staff, parents and Governors. Students organise a number of fund-raising activities throughout the year.

Laudato Si - Care for Creation - Climate and Local Action Committee

"Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." Amos 5:24

Caring for Creation is an integral part of our Catholic faith. We are called to preserve and protect our planet, a gift from God. Our student-led Climate and Local Action committee shall coordinate and work with all stakeholders in our community to create a more sustainable and healthier environment by using resources with moderation, recycling waste, using available products and services that are environmentally and socially responsible. Students shall organise events to promote environmental awareness and work with the community to educate and reduce our carbon footprint.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The College engages with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes each year and sends in the region of 30 students along with a number of staff.

Key Events in the College Calendar

Term 1	Opening Assembly Year 2 Welcome Assembly Year 1 Freshers' Fair Special Minister of Holy Communion Training Macmillan Coffee Morning Black History Month and Celebrating Diversity and World Culture Day CAFOD Family Fast Day Mass of Welcome for all parents World Mental Health Day Wear it Pink for Cancer Research UK Advent Collection Carols by Candlelight World Aids Day Santa Dash Student Carol Service for each year group
Term 2	HE Day Holocaust Memorial Day College Production Mission Week Fairtrade Fortnight International Women's Day CAFOD Family Fast Day Stations of the Cross weekly during Lent Lenten Liturgies
Term 3	St Luke's Walk Easter Liturgies Sponsored Walk Leavers' Mass Leavers' Liturgy & BBQ Race for Life Summer Concert hosted by the Principal Teaching & Learning Conference Dominican Day Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes