



BLACKFRIARS
PRIORY SCHOOL

Co-CURRICULAR POLICY

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CONTEXT

As the only school founded by the Dominican Friars in Australia, Blackfriars Priory School remains faithful to the search for Truth (Veritas) as lived and taught over the last 800 years by the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and exemplified by Saint Dominic, our Founder, and Saint Albert the Great, our Patron.

Saint Dominic's commitment to study continued throughout his life. The pursuit of knowledge was not for its own sake but to better understand God's creation and its use in the works of the Order has continued through the centuries. Today, Dominicans can be found throughout the world.

An early member of the Dominicans was Saint Albert the Great. He became a lecturer, scientist, philosopher and Bishop. After his death he was recognised as a Doctor of the Church. The Doctor Universalis – The Universal Doctor, in recognition of his extraordinary genius and extensive knowledge, for he studied every branch of learning known at his time. His quest for knowledge saw him study everything he could find as it was through learning about creation, that he was able to know more about the creator, God, and then hand on that information to all he taught.

The lifelong commitment of Saint Dominic and Saint Albert to discovering and applying Truth to hand on to others remains at the core of the Blackfriars teaching pedagogy and its community. Blackfriars is built upon the Four Pillars of Dominican Life: Prayer, Study, Community Life and Service.

PURPOSE

The Dominican philosophy of education arises from a Christ-centred Catholic model which engages the mind, body and spirit in the pursuit of knowledge.

The School is charged to offer the resources and opportunities to allow students to ask questions; learn and develop their abilities; and identify and excel in their strengths.

The School is built upon the Four Pillars of Dominican Life: Prayer, Study, Community and Service. Through prayer we are called to live out our rich Catholic faith and recognise our own personal responsibility in forging life giving relationships. Community reminds us of our mandate to advance the self-esteem and integrity of the individual and serve the community so as to bring about justice and peace. Through study, our community develops a love for learning and a desire to be true to their calling. Service reminds us that Christ was first and foremost a minister and we must reflect this in our solidarity with the poor and disadvantaged as we search for God through Veritas in our daily lives.

Therefore, participation in the co-curricular program should provide our School Community with an opportunity to:

- Enjoy involvement in physical activity
- Promote and develop an individual's fitness and health
- Foster and develop positive attitudes, group and team skills and self confidence
- Build relationships that are respectful and meaningful
- Live out our Catholic faith and share our experiences with our community to bring about positive change.

The School is a member of the Sports Association for Adelaide Schools (SAAS) and therefore abides by its expectations, constitutions, policies and rulings in addition to guidelines and expectations outlined by the School.

The aim of the Co-Curricular Program is to:

- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Offer activities that encourage an active lifestyle as well as the option to participate in competitive sport at interschool and state level
- Further develop the whole person by promoting leadership and social skills and enhancing a sense of personal responsibility in team and individual pursuits
- Provide the opportunity for students to participate in activities that an individual may never have previously experienced
- Build team skills, develop new friendships, gain enjoyment from participation and improve overall health and wellbeing.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students, parents/caregivers, Staff, spectators and coaches who are expected to represent the School community in a way that positively reflects the School ethos.

POLICY

Representing the School in the co-curricular program carries with it the responsibility to demonstrate the values that characterize the School community. This policy outlines the expectations of all parties involved in the School co-curricular program.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Participate in a minimum of one co-curricular activity each year
- Honour their commitment for the duration of the Summer (Term 1 and 4) or Winter (Term 2 and 3) co-curricular activity
- Any student who plays for an sporting club must also represent the School in the same sport when the School's sport program is taking place
- School sporting commitments take precedence over any club representation
- Participating in an alternative co-curricular sport or activity does not take the place of the club sport that must also be performed at School. For example, a student cannot play football for a club and not the School and then choose to play badminton for the School as their chosen School sport. If they choose to play badminton, this will be on top of their existing School and club sport commitments
- Students who play at State or National level within a sport must play the same sport for the School. Training and playing commitments may be negotiated with the team coach and Co-Curricular Administrator R-12

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being positive, supportive and treating all team mates and opponents with respect regardless of ability, gender, cultural background or religion
- Participate for their own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents/caregivers and coaches
- Wear the correct team uniform at all games and training sessions
- Inform team coach or manager if unavailable; giving adequate notice and reasons for absence
- Attend weekly team meetings and training sessions
- Organise transport to and from sporting venues to ensure prompt arrival at games
- Learn the rules of the specific sport and abide by them at all times
- Treat all team mates and opponents as you would like to be treated
- Control behaviour on and off the field
- Show respect to and acknowledge opponents and officials (e.g. shaking hands) and cooperate with your coach, team mates and opponents
- Distracting, provoking opponents or verbally abusing players and officials is not permitted
- Accept any referee's or umpire's decision and refrain from using inappropriate language
- Non-participation in the School's co-curricular program is not an option.

PARENT/CAREGIVER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Encourage students to participate but remember that they participate for their own enjoyment, not for the entertainment of spectators
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship by being positive and encourage efforts from all individuals and teams
- Ensure that your son arrives promptly to all training sessions and games wearing the appropriate School sports uniform
- Ensure prompt collection of your son at the conclusion of training sessions and games
- Ensure that your son follows the behaviour code for the sport
- Be courteous and respectful in your communication with players, parents, team officials, game officials and sports administrators
- Never ridicule or yell at a student for making a mistake or not winning
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators
- Condemn the use of violence, verbal abuse or vilification in any form (whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or players). Any game day concerns or issues should be addressed to your son's supervising teachers or the Co-Curricular Administrator R-12.

TEACHER AND COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES

- Set a good example for your students and encourage a positive attitude towards sport
- Ensure that all players are given equal opportunity to participate in training and games
- Teach a wide range of team skills as well as involving the students in planning, evaluation and decision-making

- Ensure rules, equipment, training sessions and games are safe and that the activity is appropriate for the age group and the skill development level of all players involved
- Ensure that everyone involved, including parents/caregivers, understand their responsibilities regarding fair play and appropriate behaviour. Teach students to be respectful towards officials and opponents
- Avoid overplaying talented players. All students deserve equal playing time
- Remove from the field of play any of your students whose behaviour is not acceptable
- Keep your own knowledge of coaching and the developments of the sport up to date
- Emphasise fun and enjoyment and downplay the importance of winning at all costs
- Be reasonable in your demands of young students' time, energy and enthusiasm
- Follow the advice of a medical officer when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competition
- Assist the umpire or referee to maintain control of the match
- Attend weekly meetings to sort teams and distribute programs and maps
- Arrive early prior to the commencement of a game
- Ensure all students have left safely following the conclusion of a game
- If a team has more players than needed, the supervising teacher and coach will give each student a fair share of playing time, such as implementing a roster system.

Consequences of breaching this Policy will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis by the Co-Curricular Administrator R-12 in collaboration with the Head of Primary/Deputy Principal (7-12) in accordance with the School's Code of Conduct.

Supervision

At all times, there must be an adult supervisor (a School mandated parent/caregiver, old scholar or teacher) accompanying each team. Each supervisor must have completed all necessary checks and requirements as stated in the Catholic Education Duty of Care Policy in addition to being approved by the Principal of the School. At all times, duty of care must be exercised by all supervisors.

Coaches

Old scholars are encouraged by the School to continue the strong traditions of sport by investing time and skills in coaching junior teams and umpiring. Current students are also encouraged to share their skills and support with the development of junior teams. All coaches and volunteers are required to hold a current Working With Children Check (WWCC).

Inclement weather

Co-curricular activities will be treated in line with the School's Inclement Weather Policy and Sports Association for Adelaide Schools Extreme Weather Guidelines.

Transport

When students/teams are required to travel away for sport, contracted transport will be used for Secondary School activities. Students are transported to the playing venue and at the completion of the activity they return to the School.

Teams will walk, weather permitting, to venues close to the School accompanied by an adult supervisor.

In the event of weekend sport, transport is the responsibility of families. Staff members are not encouraged to transport students to or from a co-curricular activity.

Specialist Programs and Knockout Sports

Participation in Specialist Programs or Knockout Sports provides students who display advanced skills in a sport the opportunity to showcase their skills and compete in a highly competitive and challenging environment. The School acknowledges the demands placed on students in regards to training and games when playing at a State or National level.

With the wellbeing of the student at the forefront, students are still expected to represent the School in Knockout Sports. Exemptions will be given on a case-by-case basis and determined by the Co-Curricular Administrator R-12.

Students who are involved in Skilleroos, National Training Centres (NTC), Adelaide United Youth or any other nationally recognized soccer squads are required to play knockout games, soccer carnivals and 5-a-side tournaments for the School. An exemption will only be given for Saturday matches.

Students who play Under 16 or Under 18 SANFL or club Football are still required to represent the School. Training and game commitments may be negotiated with the coach, manager and Co-Curricular Administrator R-12.

Individual Representation in Sports

The School endeavours to provide students who have a high level of skill in a particular sport with the opportunity to pursue their chosen sport and receive state or national recognition for their efforts. Students are encouraged to trial for state and national teams and are recommended by the School to outside associations. It is still expected that the student will still represent the School in their chosen sport.

Uniforms

All students are required to wear the regulation School sports uniform when participating in co-curricular sporting activities. Some sports have a specific uniform which students are required to purchase from the School.

First Aid

All sporting co-curricular teams are required to carry a first aid kit to all training sessions and games. All staff members must have basic BELS first aid training. The Co-Curricular Coordinator will provide the student Medical Information Form for each student to the Manager/Coach of each activity. In the event of an injury on the sporting field, an assessment is made for all injuries and actions taken depending on the severity. For minor injuries, basic first aid is applied to the student. The provision of first aid will comply with the School's First Aid Procedure.

When an injury is more serious, an ambulance may be called or the parent/caregiver may take their child to a medical practitioner. In the instance of a serious injury where an ambulance is called or the student is taken to a doctor, documentation must be completed outlining the incident and action taken so that follow up can occur on the wellbeing of the student. Parents/caregivers must be contacted and made aware of the situation.

Any player who has suffered a concussion or is suspected of having a concussion must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury and must not be allowed to return to play in the same game or train in the same practice session. A concussed player must not be allowed to return to School or return to training or playing before having a formal medical clearance.

Intercol

The School competes against Christian Brothers College for the Intercol cup each year. Trophies are contested for the following co-curricular activities: football, basketball, soccer, table tennis, chess, debating and cricket. The host of Intercol is rotated between the School and Christian Brothers College each year.

RELATED DOCUMENTS/LINKS

1. Department for Education South Australia – www.education.sa.gov.au
2. Catholic Education SA Excursions, Camps, Adventure, Physical and Sporting Activities: Procedures for Catholic Schools and Preschools 2005:
<https://online.cesa.catholic.edu.au/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-11301/Excursions%2C+Camps%2C+Adventure%2C+Physical+and+Sporting+Activities+Procedures28Feb2012.pdf>
3. [Sports Association for Adelaide Schools Code of Conduct](#)
4. Sports Association for Adelaide Schools Policies and Guidelines - <http://www.saas.asn.au/policy/>
5. Safety and Wellbeing Policy – Blackfriars Priory School
6. Code of Conduct – Blackfriars Prior School
7. Blackfriars Primary Co-Curricular Handbook
8. Blackfriars Secondary Co-Curricular Handbook
9. Student Co-Curricular Nomination Form – Primary
10. Student Co-Curricular Nomination Form – Secondary
11. Curriculum Extension Activities Staff Form

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Responsibility for implementation, monitoring and review of the policy is vested at the level of the following roles:

Co-Curricular Administrator R-12

POLICY REVIEW

Frequency: Every 2 years

Next review date: August 2022

APPROVAL AUTHORITY / POLICY OWNER

Blackfriars Priory School