

FEE POLICY

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 Preaches (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 to use in the works of the Order, which 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 recognized 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 Priory School is built upon the Four Pillars of Dominican Life: Prayer, Study, Community Life and Service.

1. CONTEXT

Blackfriars Priory School is committed to providing excellence in Catholic Education synonymous with the traditions of the Dominican Order.

The Fee Policy –

- Is in keeping with the values of the School
- Is subject to a biennial review by the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Blackfriars Priory School Board
- Encompasses the fees for the Early Learning Centre, Years Reception to Year 12, Full Fee Paying Overseas Students, Exchange Students and Out of School Hours Care
- Is to be read in conjunction with the Fee Schedule
- Incorporates matters pertaining to fee collection

2. PRINCIPLES

Blackfriars Priory School fee structure:

- Holds to the lowest financially sustainable levels.
- Provides for maintenance and development of facilities and programs to meet the needs of contemporary education.
- Supports low income families in accordance with the Fee Assistance Policy
- Assists students at the School with siblings at other Catholic schools.

3. INFORMATION TO PARENTS

Parents are informed of their obligation to pay school fees:

- During the application for enrolment process
- Within the enrolment contact
- As communicated in the School's Fee Schedule and Fee Policy

4. INVOICING

Fees are invoiced as per the School's Fee Schedule. The Fee Schedule is reviewed as part of the School's annual budget review.

5. PAYMENT OF FEES

Fees must be paid as outlined on the School's Fee Schedule.

6. NON-PAYMENT OF FEES

The School will institute collection proceedings with families who avoid their obligation of fee payment.

By signing the enrolment contract parents/guardians accept liability for payment of School fees. In the event of a marriage breakdown the School is not party to any determination of the Family Court and both parties to the enrolment contract with the School will be pursued jointly and severally for payment of outstanding fees and charges.

Non-payment of fees by agreed dates may also require a meeting with the Principal or their Delegate to discuss the continuing enrolment of the student at the school.

7. PAYMENT OF FEES WHILST STUDENT IS ABSENT

Payment of school fees is still required when a student is absent from the School for any length of time. A student who has approval from the School for a leave of absence for a minimum of one Term and wishes to return to the School will pay a holding fee of 50% of the Tuition Fee applicable during the student's absence.

8. ENROLMENT EXIT

When students leave the School of their own volition, the family must provide a minimum of one Term's notice in writing addressed to the Principal. In the event that the student leaves prior to one Term's notice, a fee is payable which is the equivalent of one Term's Tuition Fee. This condition will also apply to students leaving at the end of the school year who have not provided advice prior to the end of Term 3.

9. INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS TRIPS

The School requires all families to be financially up to date with payment of their Tuition Fees, or financially up to date with an approved payment plan for payment of tuition fees when nominating their child for any interstate or overseas School trip. The School will not allow attendance for an interstate or overseas trip if fees are not up to date.

10. SCHOOL CARD RECIPIENTS

School Card is a South Australian Government means tested assistance scheme focused on providing educational expense support to families on a low income. Eligible families will be provided a 40% discount of the Tuition Fee. Applications for School Card are required to be made on an annual basis.