



**A CATHOLIC
COLLEGE
EDUCATING
GIRLS IN THE
DOMINICAN
TRADITION**

2020 COMPLIANCE REPORT



**ST DOMINIC'S
PRIORY COLLEGE**

EDUCATING GIRLS, INSPIRING CONFIDENCE



SCHOOL FEATURES

St Dominic's Priory College is a Catholic girls R-12 school of 679 students. The College strongly reflects the composition of the Australian multi-cultural community. Refugees from many parts of the world are welcomed, as are International Students.

The College is located five minutes north of the city centre in a quiet corner of North Adelaide. Founded in 1884 by Dominican Sisters from England, it has in common with Dominican Schools around the world, a long tradition of teaching and learning. The Dominican motto of 'Truth, and the pursuit of truth wherever it is found' is seen as essential to its philosophy of learning. Acting on that truth in outreach to the neighbour is the desired outcome of this pursuit. The opportunity to nurture character and confidence is enhanced by the College's moderate size. Education at St Dominic's is based on a deep respect for the unique qualities and gifts of each girl.

The College has an outstanding reputation in South Australia for the quality of its students' educational achievements across a broad range of learning areas. St Dominic's Priory College is committed to providing a balanced education where physical, intellectual and emotional growth are seen as complementary. Joy and enthusiasm are valued in the school's daily life and a wide range of co-curricula activities foster these goals.

The report presented here is a requirement of the Commonwealth Government as outlined in the Schools Assistance Act 2004. The College reports this data with pride in the significant achievements of staff and students.

It is presented under three headings: *Professional Engagement*, *Student Learning Outcomes* and *Satisfaction*.

We acknowledge St Dominic's Priory College is situated on Kurna Land and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.



PROVIDING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT DOES NOT ALWAYS RE-ENFORCE TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES, PROVIDING MANY LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

YEAR 11 PARENT

STUDENT COHORT

ENROLMENTS

In 2020 the total number of student enrolments was 679. The number of students identifying as Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander was 3.

Year level enrolments for 2020 as per the August census are reflected in the table below.

YEAR LEVEL	STUDENTS	YEAR LEVEL	STUDENTS
Reception	31	Year 7	87
Year 1	22	Year 8	84
Year 2	23	Year 9	77
Year 3	26	Year 10	82
Year 4	28	Year 11	83
Year 5	29	Year 12	78
Year 6	29	TOTAL	679

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

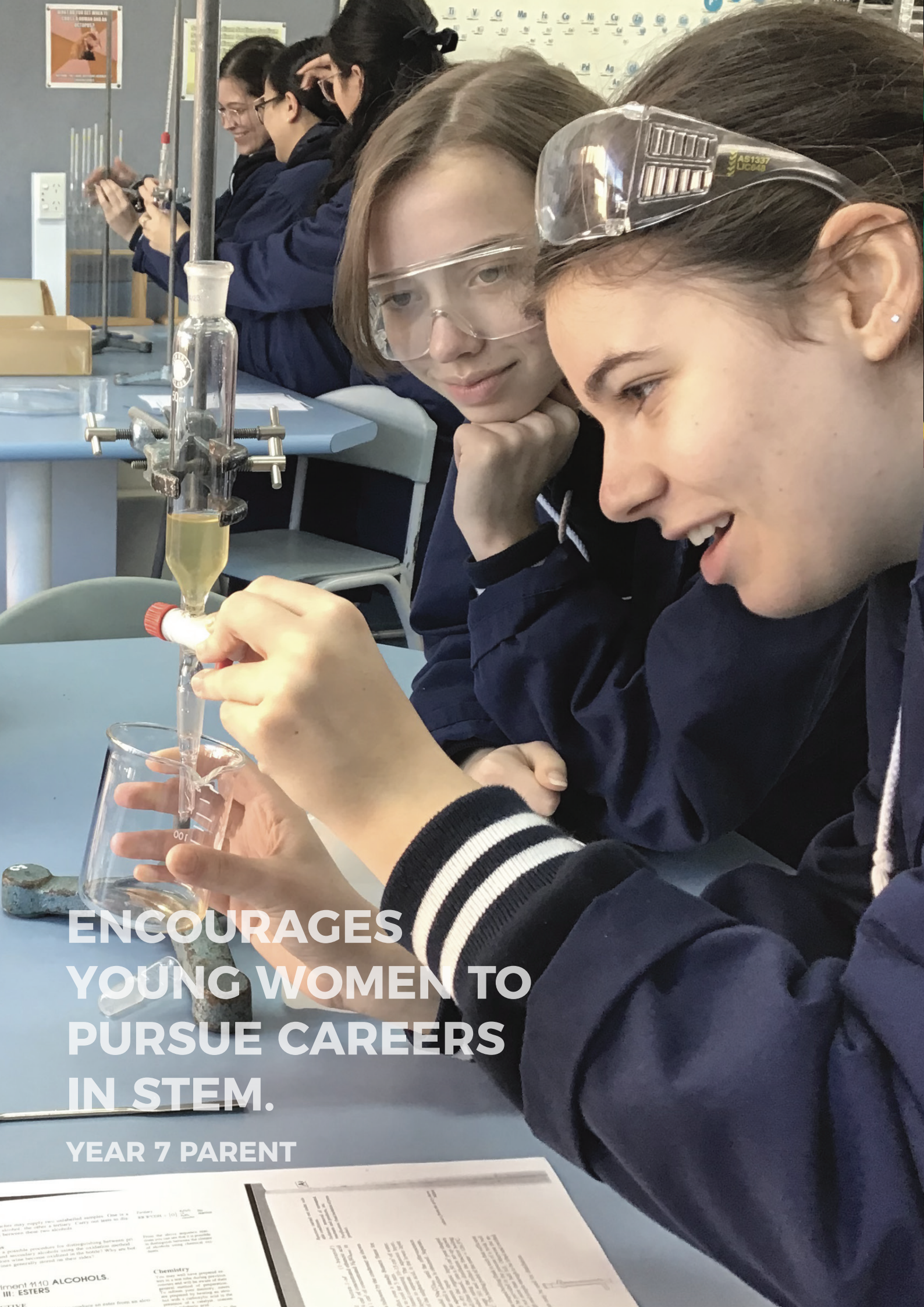
St Dominic's Priory College maintains a high level of student attendance. In 2020, the COVID-19 year, the average student attendance rate was 93.66%.

The College provides multiple channels by which student absence can be notified. When a student is absent without explanation, a SMS text message is sent to the Parent or Guardian seeking clarification of the reasons for the absence as well as a follow up phone call when required.

The percentage figure for the average student attendance rate, as shown in the table below, shows the proportion of days that each student, on average, attends school throughout the year. The larger the percentage the smaller the number of days that students are absent from school.

YEAR LEVEL	ATTENDANCE %	YEAR LEVEL	ATTENDANCE %
Reception	94.87%	Year 7	94.52%
Year 1	93.43%	Year 8	94.30%
Year 2	94.54%	Year 9	93.27%
Year 3	94.37%	Year 10	92.44%
Year 4	93.17%	Year 11	93.27%
Year 5	93.93%	Year 12	92.81%
Year 6	92.64%	AVERAGE	93.66%

Based on the number of school days that students are required to attend against those taken as absence.



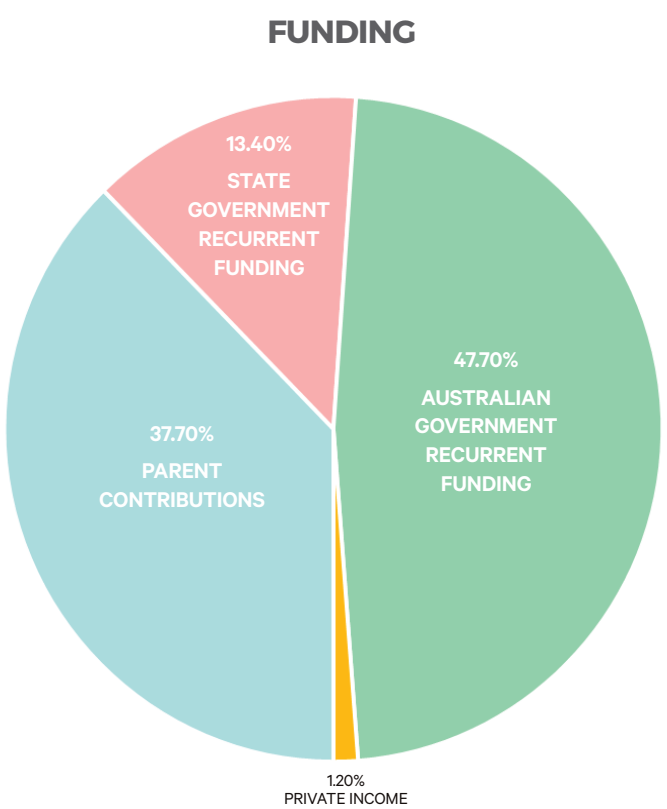
ENCOURAGES
YOUNG WOMEN TO
PURSUE CAREERS
IN STEM.

YEAR 7 PARENT



FINANCE

As an independent Catholic school, the primary source of funding for teaching and learning programs comes from Parent contributions such as Tuition fees and charges. Both the State and Commonwealth Governments also provide grants which are managed diligently to ensure the ongoing financial viability of the College.





A STRONG VALUES
BASED SCHOOL
STEEPED IN HISTORY,
NOT JUST THE
DOMINICAN SISTERS
BUT THAT OF
ADELAIDE AND SOUTH
AUSTRALIA.
YEAR 10 PARENT

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

SENIOR SECONDARY OUTCOMES

St Dominic's Year 12 students of 2020 achieved overall outstanding results. Thirty-six (36%) of the Year 12 class achieved an ATAR score of 90 and above (top 10% in the State). Nineteen percent (19%) achieved a score of 95 and above (top 5% in the State). Three (3) students were placed in the top 1% of the State, with ATARs above 99.

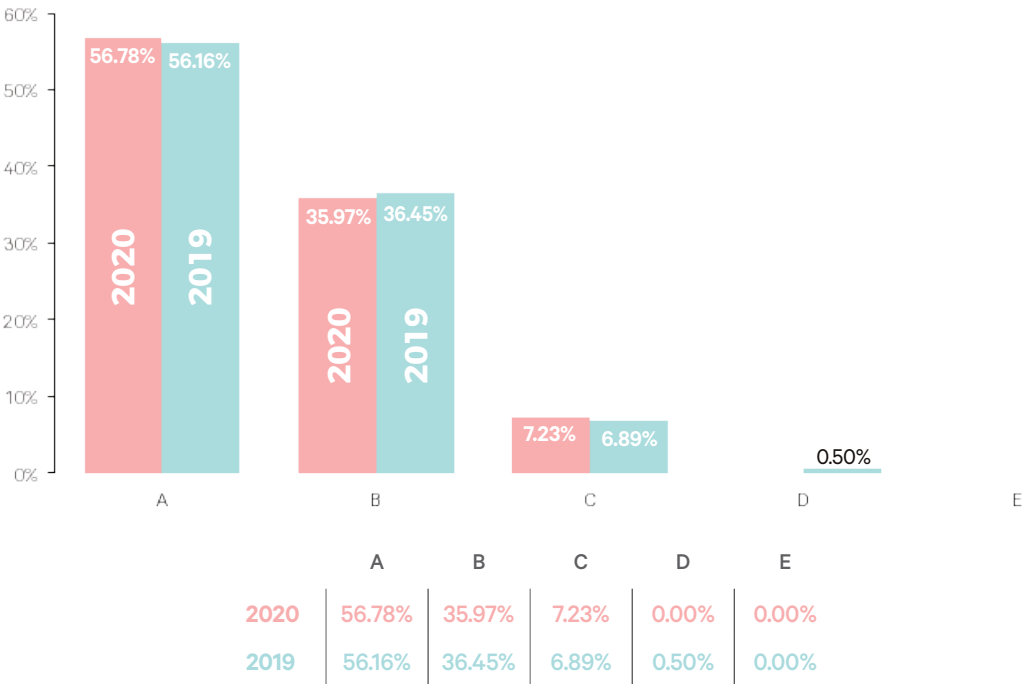
Over all 93% of all passes were of A and B grade standard.

Eighteen (18) Merits were obtained in the following subjects: *Biology, Chemistry, English, Essential English, Mathematical Methods, Music - Solo Performance, Physics, Research Project, Society & Culture, Visual Arts - Art, Workplace Practices.*

Thirty-one (31) Senior School students were awarded a VET Qualification.

Prominently displayed in the St Dominic's Administration foyer are the full range of subject achievements for 2020. We extend our congratulations to all Year 12 students of 2020.

YEAR 12 GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS 2020/2019



POST-SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

In January 2021 the following offers were made to our students of 2020:

Total University	100%
Total TAFE	0%



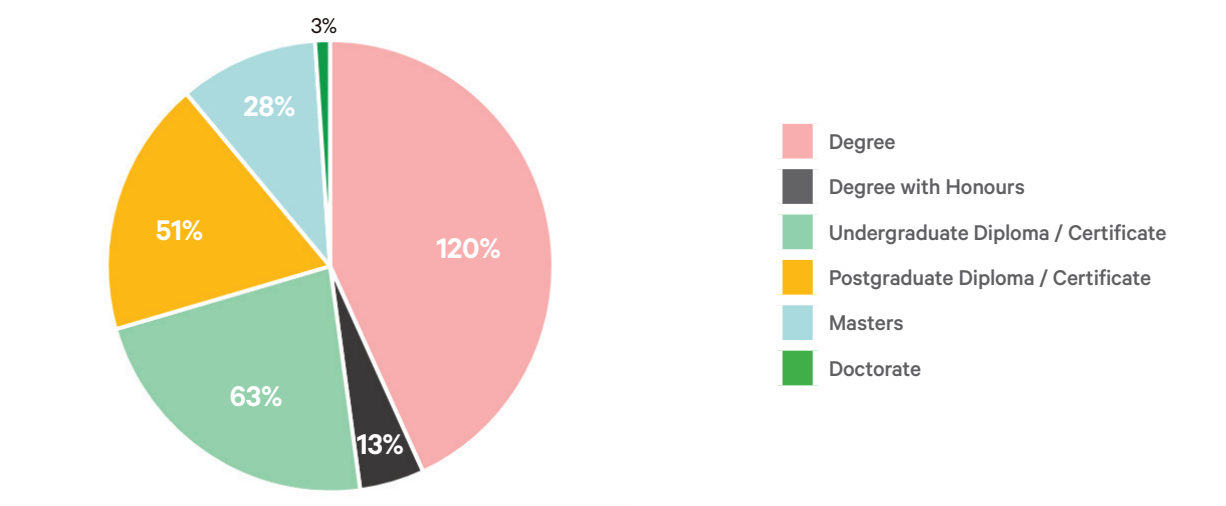
**WELCOMING WARM
JUNIOR SCHOOL, ALWAYS
READY TO MEET STUDENTS
IN THE MORNINGS AND
SAFELY SAY GOODBYE AT
THE END OF THE DAY.
YEAR 11 PARENT**



PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

The academic qualifications of our teaching staff is shown in the chart below.



In addition to these formal qualifications, all staff undergo training in mandatory Responding to Abuse and Neglect (RAN) training and First Aid care, and teaching staff hold the required qualifications for Teacher Registration in South Australia.

COLLEGE STAFF

The St Dominic's Priory College staff comprises of 88 staff (73 females and 15 males). The number of staff and full-time equivalent is shown in the table below.

STAFF PROFILE	NUMBER	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT
Principal	1	1.0
Teaching Staff	65	52.3
Non-Teaching Staff	22	17.5
TOTAL	88	70.8

There are no staff members who identify as Indigenous Australians.



STUDENT SATISFACTION

EXITING STUDENTS SURVEY

Research indicates a strong positive correlation between student satisfaction and a school's operations. Exiting students' perceptions of school climate are important in understanding ways to improve school quality and satisfaction among students and teachers for future years.

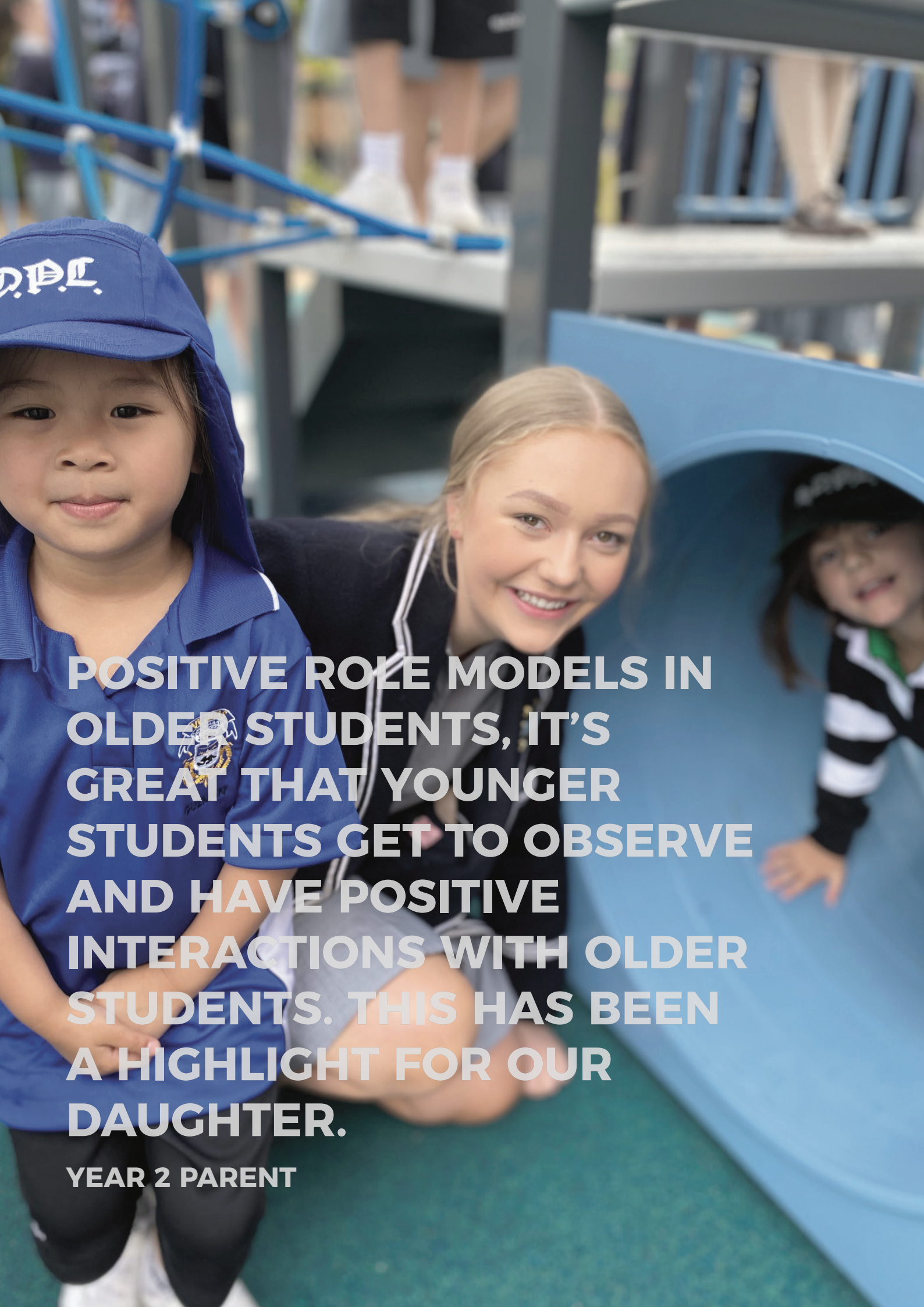
A positive school environment empowers members of the school community to contribute to the ongoing improvement of the school and eliminating negative behaviours. The **Exiting Student Survey** is designed to provide schools with data useful for fostering a positive learning and working environment that promotes academic success among all students. Initial assessment provides a baseline, and ongoing assessment helps to determine whether programs are effective at improving the school climate, and whether they continue to be relevant for schools over time.

Performance of students is frequently reviewed; however, this only offers a snapshot and can often overlook the range of experiences, values and qualities that make up a school.

AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The survey aims to provide St Dominic's Priory College with the ability to:

- understand graduating students' perceptions and identify areas where there are high levels of satisfaction, and areas in need of improvement;
- determine students' future plans and preferred method of maintaining contact with St Dominic's;
- conduct like comparisons of St Dominic's to similar schools (e.g., denomination, school size, vicinity, sector);
- conduct year comparisons – compare one year to the next to identify changes and improvements; and
- make comparisons across stakeholders (e.g., parents, staff, students, school executives).



POSITIVE ROLE MODELS IN OLDER STUDENTS, IT'S GREAT THAT YOUNGER STUDENTS GET TO OBSERVE AND HAVE POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH OLDER STUDENTS. THIS HAS BEEN A HIGHLIGHT FOR OUR DAUGHTER.

YEAR 2 PARENT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CLASS OF 2020

Students at St Dominic's Priory College showed an overall **mean satisfaction level of 69%**. Compared with the Catholic Girls' Schools benchmark, satisfaction levels for St Dominic's exiting students were 7% lower. Percentage figures below indicate mean scores for each item.

Students at St Dominic's displayed the highest levels of satisfaction with the key area of *Student Behavioural Values*, and the lowest levels with the key area of *Technology and Resources*.

Percentage scores below indicate mean levels of satisfaction.

THE HIGHEST RATED ITEMS WERE FOR:

- My school is clearly identified as a Catholic School (90%)
- I have been encouraged to achieve high results (89%)
- My school has taught students how to be well-behaved (86%)

It must be noted that 2020 has been a very challenging year for Year 12 students, given the challenges of COVID-19. Therefore, it is important to take into consideration students' qualitative responses, rather than just focusing on the quantitative data of this report.



THE YEAR 12 CENTRE HAS
BEEN A FANTASTIC ASSET
TO THE SCHOOL AND THE
WELLBEING OF THE
YEAR 12 STUDENTS.

YEAR 11 PARENT



TOP TEN STRENGTHS

St Dominic's Priory College's results have been analysed for each question and compared to the Catholic Girls' Schools benchmark. The percentage difference between St Dominic's 2020 results and the benchmark were sorted, and the College's top 10 results are presented below, with reference to the benchmark.

ST DOMINIC'S TOP 10 STRENGTHS (COMPARED WITH BENCHMARK)

Key Area	Item	Catholic Girls' schools' Mean	St Dominic's Mean (N=57)	% Difference
Student Behavioural Values	My school has taught students how to be well-behaved.	79%	86%	+7%
Learning Opportunities	I have been encouraged to achieve high results.	83%	89%	+6%
Religion	Staff members demonstrate a faith that reflects the school's ethos.	75%	77%	+2%
School Curriculum	My subjects have been interesting and challenging.	75%	77%	+2%
Religion	My school is clearly identified as a Catholic School.	88%	90%	+2%
Teacher Quality	My teachers have provided me with useful feedback about my schoolwork.	72%	74%	+2%
Religion	Students are encouraged to be a part of religious activities and projects outside of the classroom.	69%	70%	+1%
Personal Development	I have been encouraged to take part in community activities.	81%	82%	+1%
Teacher Quality	My teachers have been positive and enthusiastic about their teaching.	76%	76%	+1%
Student Relationships	Students have shown respect for each other.	75%	76%	+1%

A FINAL NOTE

Results indicate that St Dominic's Priory College has a very strong Catholic faith, with well-rounded students. St Dominic's Priory College should ensure that it focuses on keeping in contact with students and providing support for alumni.



THE STAFF, IN PARTICULAR FRONT OFFICE STAFF, ARE PROFESSIONAL, LOVELY AND HELPFUL. IT HAS A STRONG COMMUNITY FEEL AND IF I'VE HAD QUERIES OR CONCERNS AROUND MY DAUGHTER'S EDUCATION OR SOCIAL ISSUES, I FEEL HEARD AND VALIDATED.
YEAR 8 PARENT

STUDENT COMMENTS

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR TIME AT ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY COLLEGE?

- I have been supported mentally and emotionally. My peers are very understanding and supportive. I enjoy connecting with other students from different year levels through extra-curricula activities.
- I liked how everyone (teachers and students) are always determined, professional, yet fun to be around.
- I think that the studies in the Year 12 Centre is an advantage. I can focus on my work more.
- School Musicals/Music performances/Singing - music and drama opportunities.
- The co-curricula activities, allowing to try sports and activities I normally wouldn't try outside of school. The unique traditions such as Marching, Fete and Gala Day.
- The community, the mutual respect shown between students and teachers.
- The overall, supportive environment. Being given the opportunities to push myself in my learning.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY OF SCHOOL??

- Any time we were together as a cohort, Formal and Singing.
- Going on a field trip to Kangaroo Island for my Geography class.
- I think many of the fun community events, laughs in class and moments with friends.
- Siena winning Sports Day for the first time in 19 years!
- The Retreats are always so wonderful. I always go home after a retreat feeling so happy.
- Work Experience in Year 10.
- Year 12 as a whole and Mylor Camp in Year 9.

WHICH ACTIVITY DID YOU ENJOY THE MOST AT ST DOMINIC'S PRIORY COLLEGE?

- Being part of the school. Organising fundraisers or talking at a Mass or Assembly.
- Coming together as a whole school community.
- Field/Sports Day as I got to cheer on and spend time with my friends whilst racing in healthy competition.
- Gala Day. It works great as a school-provided, annual mental health day for the entire student body!
- Walking around North Adelaide with friends during senior sport was very stress relieving and a good break to refresh myself for the remainder of the week.

3 FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED POSITIVELY TOWARDS YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

FACTOR 1	FACTOR 2	FACTOR 3
A supportive cohort	Support from experienced teachers	Becoming aware of social issues
Co-curricula activities	Enthusiastic teachers	Active participation in schoolwork
Teachers that enjoy teaching students and show respect	Good friends that I can rely on	The common room
Teachers helping us reach our full potential	Teachers providing one-one time for extra help	An environment that makes you want to strike and achieve the highest and best possible
The way the teachers teach and how they are approachable	The new Year 12 Centre (the new facilities)	The co-curricula activities offered



I LOVE THE COMMUNITY
ATMOSPHERE, HOW I
KNOW THE TEACHERS
AND STUDENTS FROM
RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 AND
HOW WELL THE TEACHERS
COMMUNICATE. IT'S A BIGGER
VERSION OF A FAMILY.
YEAR 8 PARENT



PARENT SATISFACTION

PARENT OPINION SURVEY

Research indicates a strong positive correlation between parent satisfaction and a school's operations. Parents' perceptions of school climate are important in understanding ways to improve school morale, reputation, productivity and overall atmosphere.

A positive school environment empowers members of the school community to contribute to the ongoing improvement of the school. The **Parent Opinion Survey** is designed to provide schools with data useful for fostering a positive learning and working environment that promotes academic success among all students. Initial assessment provides a baseline, and ongoing assessment helps to determine whether programs are effective at improving the school climate, and whether they continue to be relevant for schools over time.

Performance of students is frequently reviewed; however, this only offers a snapshot and can often overlook the range of experiences, values and qualities that make up a school.

AIMS OF THE SURVEY

The survey aims to provide St Dominic's Priory College with the ability to:

- demonstrate areas in St Dominic's where there are high levels of satisfaction, and areas in need of improvement;
- report on school satisfaction for marketing and other purposes;
- conduct like comparisons of St Dominic's to similar schools (e.g., denomination, school size, vicinity, sector);
- conduct year comparisons – compare one year to the next to identify changes and improvements; and
- make comparisons across stakeholders (e.g., parents, staff, students, school executives).

SUMMARY DATA

The table below presents demographic information about St Dominic's Priory College's respondents.

	Percent of respondents	Number of respondents
All respondents	100%	280
Mothers	71%	198
Fathers	29%	82
Reception	7%	21
Year 1	3%	9
Year 2	3%	9
Year 3	2%	6
Year 4	4%	10
Year 5	4%	11
Year 6	4%	12
Year 7	12%	33
Year 8	13%	37
Year 9	13%	35
Year 10	12%	35
Year 11	13%	38
Year 12	9%	26

Please note: in this report, the mean levels of satisfaction have been calculated by converting parents' responses on the scale of 0-5 (strongly disagree to strongly agree) to percentage mean scores.



BENCHMARKS

ST DOMINIC’S RESULTS (N=280) COMPARED WITH BENCHMARKS

The following table presents the mean levels of satisfaction (as percentages) for St Dominic’s Priory College according to the National School Surveys (NSS) Benchmark as well as the Catholic Girls’ Schools Benchmark.

The number of respondents is noted in brackets.

The final column identifies the percentage difference between St Dominic’s and the Catholic Girls’ Schools Benchmark. **Green percentage scores** indicate that St Dominic’s is higher than the benchmark and **red percentage scores** indicate that the College’s results are lower than the benchmark.

	NSS Benchmark (N=10,000)	Catholic Girls' schools (N=2,000)	St Dominic's Mean (N=280)	% Difference between St Dominic's and Catholic Girls' schools
Guidance and Support	74%	80%	82%	+2%
Learning Opportunities	72%	79%	80%	+1%
Personal Development	69%	73%	76%	+3%
Teacher Quality	68%	75%	77%	+2%
School Curriculum	71%	75%	73%	-2%
School Environment	73%	80%	85%	+5%
Parent Communication	68%	74%	73%	-1%
Technology and Resources	74%	77%	78%	+1%
Leadership and Management	70%	76%	80%	+4%
Religion	N/A	82%	83%	+1%
AVERAGE OF KEY AREAS	71%	77%	79%	+2%

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PARENT SATISFACTION

Parents at St Dominic’s Priory College showed an overall mean satisfaction level of 79%. Compared with the Catholic Girls’ Schools benchmark, satisfaction levels for St Dominic’s parents were 2% higher. Percentage figures below indicate mean scores for each item.

Parents at St Dominic’s displayed the highest levels of satisfaction with the key area of *School Environment*, and the lowest levels with the key areas of *School Curriculum* and *School Communication*.

Percentage scores below indicate mean levels of satisfaction.

THE HIGHEST RATED ITEMS WERE FOR:

- The staff who work in the front office are friendly and helpful towards parents (94%)
- This school is clearly identified as a Catholic School (89%)
- This school is kept clean and tidy (89%)

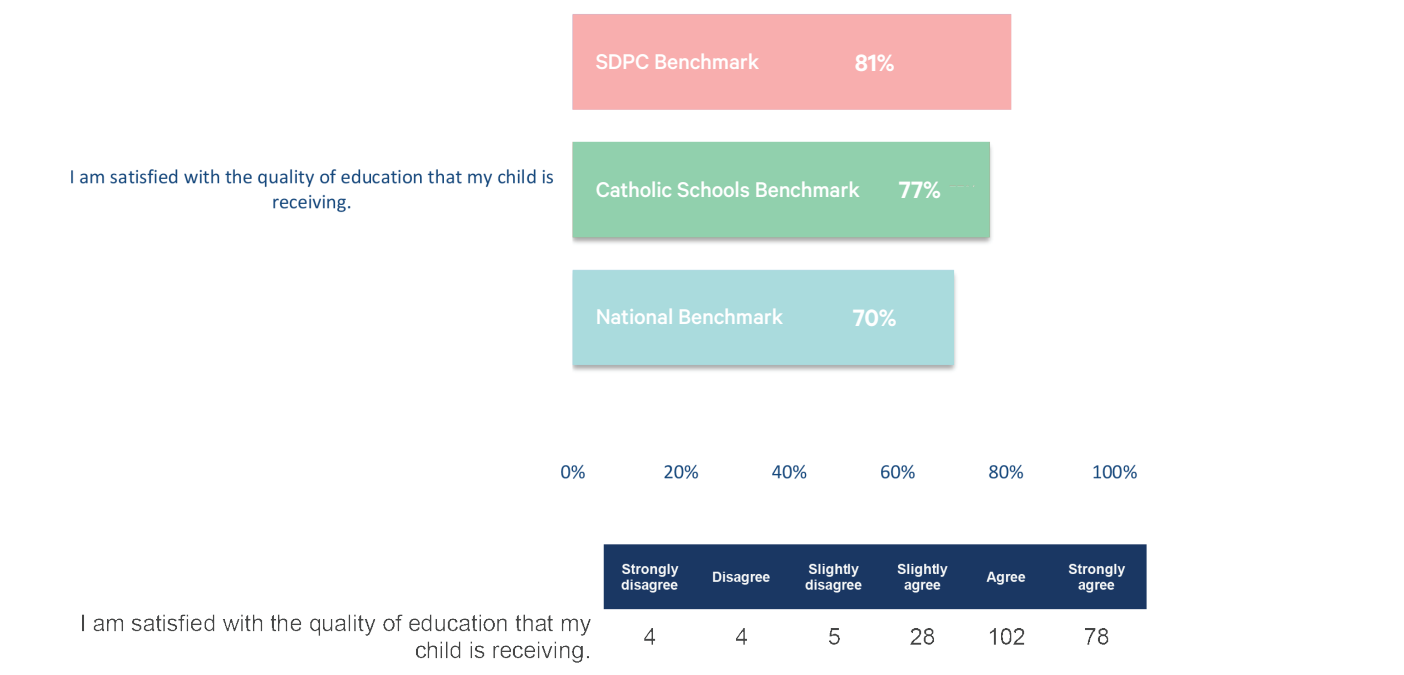




OVERALL RESULTS

St Dominic’s Priory College’s results for each of the key areas, according to benchmarks, are summarised below. The accompanying table shows the number of respondents at St Dominic’s Priory College who answered the following:

Strongly disagree, Disagree, Slightly disagree, Slightly agree, Agree, Strongly agree.



TOP TEN STRENGTHS

STRENGTHS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

St Dominic’s Priory College’s results have been analysed for each question and compared to the Catholic Girls’ Schools benchmark. The percentage difference between St Dominic’s 2020 results and the benchmark were sorted, and the College’s top 10 results are presented below, with reference to the benchmark.

ST DOMINIC’S TOP 10 STRENGTHS (COMPARED WITH BENCHMARK)

Key Area	Item	Catholic Girls' schools Mean	St Dominic's Mean (N=280)	% Difference
School Environment	Students present themselves with pride.	75%	84%	+9%
Parent Communication	The staff who work in the front office are friendly and helpful towards parents.	86%	94%	+8%
Parent Communication	I feel well-informed about school matters.	73%	81%	+8%
Guidance and Support	I have felt comfortable when my child is starting a new year at school.	79%	86%	+7%
School Environment	This school is kept clean and tidy.	82%	89%	+7%
Leadership and Management	There is effective leadership in the school.	76%	83%	+7%
Leadership and Management	This school is well managed.	77%	84%	+7%
Teacher Quality	I have access to my child's teacher(s) when I feel the need to contact them.	76%	82%	+6%
Leadership and Management	The leadership and direction provided by administrators is excellent.	76%	81%	+5%
Teacher Quality	Teachers and staff are caring and supportive.	80%	85%	+5%

A FINAL NOTE

The numerical data and comments suggest that parents are very happy with St Dominic’s Priory College. It is important for St Dominic’s to assess parents’ perceptions on a regular basis, particularly during this challenging time. The current results indicate high levels of satisfaction with the leadership and management of the school, as well as the teachers and school environment.



**EDUCATION STANDARDS
ARE EXCELLENT AND
TEACHERS ARE DEDICATED
AND CARE FOR MY
DAUGHTERS' WELLBEING
AND PERFORMANCE.**

YEAR 9 PARENT

PARENT COMMENTS

WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THIS SCHOOL?

- Teaching the girls to be resilient. Focusing on individual needs of the students.
- Positive role models in older students, it's great that younger students get to observe and have positive interactions with older students. This has been a highlight for our daughter.
- Community spirit. Good standard of educational expectations, excellent senior academic results. Presentation of uniform.
- It is great that the Bulletin is now available online and that communication with online apps between parents and teachers is now available.
- An honest community feel. It does what it says it will. Fosters and breeds inclusiveness and strong work ethic.
- Encourages young women to pursue careers in STEM. Invests energy in Music.
- Community feel and involvement needs to remain. End of Year Mass needs to stay. Sports Day is awesome. Yearly Musical is awesome. P&F do an amazing job.
- A sense of belonging. When concerns get to the right person responses are efficient. Good range of after school activities which also promotes inclusion, no matter what the skill level and needs.
- Community of a small school, my daughters have started in Reception and have moved through the school happy and safe. The education standard is high and reflects in the girls' work. The staff and extremely helpful and nurturing.
- Teachers are very nice and friendly. I feel comfortable in talking to them if need be.
- I love the history of the school. On Sports Day there is marching absolutely love this tradition. Community is a strength as well as empowering the girls to reach their full potential.
- The staff, in particular front office staff, are professional, lovely and helpful. It has a strong community feel and if I've had queries or concerns around my daughter's education or social issues, I feel heard and validated.
- Education standards are excellent and teachers are dedicated and care for my daughters' wellbeing and performance.
- My daughter's year level has a beautiful bunch of kids that all seem to respect one another.
- Tradition, sense of community and values.
- A strong values based school steeped in history, not just the Dominican sisters but that of Adelaide and South Australia.
- Providing an environment that does not always re-enforce traditional gender roles, providing many leadership opportunities, providing a safe community where girls are accepted by others.
- The Year 12 Centre has been a fantastic asset to the school and the wellbeing of the Year 12 students. The Facebook page is great and seeing the guard of honour for the Year 12s was beautiful, hopefully a new tradition has started for these girls and their final year.
- Teachers are readily accessible to students and encourage students to perform at a higher standard.
- Very well run. Teaching staff are very enthusiastic about their roles as teachers. They seem to delight in teaching the children and watch them grow and develop over time. Everyone feels a part of the school community. A huge thanks to all the staff for the amazing work you do each and every day. Our daughters are very lucky to have you as their teachers and role models.



**ST DOMINIC'S
PRIORY COLLEGE**

EDUCATING GIRLS.
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

139 Molesworth Street,
North Adelaide SA 5006

t: 08 8331 5100

f: 08 8267 4877

e: admin@stdominics.sa.edu.au

stdominics.sa.edu.au |   