



PARENT* CHARTER FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CANBERRA & GOULBURN



Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn work in partnership with parents and their school communities to promote a shared responsibility for the education of each child.

This Charter provides the principles and expectations that will help to achieve this critical partnership.

This partnership recognises:

- Parents as the primary and continuing educators of their children
- The contribution that parents make by valuing the Catholic identity of our schools
- The shared responsibility for the moral, spiritual, emotional and social development of students in our schools

Parents can expect that their child's school will:

- Provide an excellent education based on the traditions of Catholic teachings
- Strive to maintain a safe, secure and welcoming environment for their children
- Involve parents as the first educators in any decisions that affect their child's learning or well being
- Provide timely and accurate information about their child's progress
- Demonstrate respect for the privacy of families in all interactions including through the use of technology and social media

The School can expect that parents will:

- Actively support school policies and expectations
- Work collaboratively with school leaders, teachers and staff
- Respect the skills, knowledge and experience of school leaders and teachers
- Demonstrate respect for the school and staff in all communications including digital technologies and social media
- Contribute to the life of the school in ways that reflect their interests, skills and experience
- Support their child's consistent and punctual attendance at school
- Fulfil their commitment to pay all fees in a timely manner, and in hardship circumstances to actively work with the school to seek out mutually suitable arrangements for their payment
- Respect a teacher's working hours in terms of response times to emails and phone calls
- Request a formal interview time with their child's teacher when there is a concern to be discussed

Integral partners in the life of school communities, the school with parents have a co-responsibility to:

- Value and respect the Catholic identity of the School, its relationship to its parish communities and the teaching of Catholic beliefs
- Model Christian values and support the ethos of Catholic schools with all members of the School community
- Value and respect the diversity of faiths and cultures within the School community
- Contribute to a welcoming and inclusive school community
- Support the child's learning at school and home
- Contribute to consultation and decision making processes
- Work toward resolving grievances through respectful discussion and negotiation
- Contribute to a culture where privacy and confidentiality are assured
- Ensure respectful and caring relationships are reflected in the ways in which staff, students and parents interact when engaging in sporting and extra-curricular activities
- Acknowledge and support the work of the School Community Council/Board and associated committees

**Parent is used in this document as a term to include natural, adoptive or foster parents, guardians and caregivers of students.*