

# Charter for Parents & Caregivers

In selecting St Columba College for your child, you choose an educational environment united in faith in the traditions of the Anglican and Catholic Churches.

This Charter for Parents and Caregivers of St Columba College acknowledges and promotes the various roles of parents as integral members of this faith-based educational community.

## Parents have the following roles:

- Partners
- Educators
- Decision Makers
- Life-Long Learners
- Advocates
- Leaders and Role Models

The key statements in this Charter capture the unique opportunities and responsibilities of parents that accompany these roles. They recognise:

- The contribution that parents make by valuing the joint Anglican and Catholic identity of our College and the expression of our Christian ethos
- Parents as the primary and continuing educators of their children
- The critical importance of partnerships between parents, families and schools
- Responsibility for the education of students in our College is shared by the College and parents.
- The shared responsibility for the moral, spiritual, emotional and social development of students in our College
- The importance of positive and constructive working relationships between parents, families and our College

**As integral partners in the life of St Columba College's Anglican and Catholic educational community, parents are expected to:**

- Value and respect the joint Anglican and Catholic identity of the College, its relationship to (its) parish communities and the expression of its unity in faith through rituals, traditions, use of symbols and the teaching of Anglican and Catholic beliefs

- Actively support their child's participation, and commit to a personal participation, in the College's Catholic and Anglican rituals, traditions, celebrations and outreach programs
- Lead the development of, and share with the College, the responsibility for their child's spiritual, moral, social and emotional development
- Model Christian values of; love of God, love for neighbour, hope, compassion, peace, hospitality, faith, respect, love of learning and witnessing to God's amazing love for each person.
- Value and respect the diversity of faiths and cultures within the College community
- Contribute to a welcoming and inclusive College community

**As partners in the education of their children, parents are expected to:**

- Support their children's learning at school and home
- Contribute to the life of the College in ways that reflect their interests, skills, experience and capacity to do so
- Respect and actively support College policies and expectations
- Contribute to consultation and decision making processes available to parents (e.g. College Membership, Parents & Friends Association, Parent / Teacher Interviews)
- Work collaboratively with teachers and staff
- Respect the skills, knowledge and experience of College leaders and teachers
- Work toward resolving grievances by discussion, negotiation and respect for the College community

- Access information and resources provided by the College to support them in their role as the primary educators of their children
- Support their child's consistent and punctual attendance at school
- Fulfil their obligation to pay all fees and levies in a timely manner, and if difficulties arise to actively work with the College to seek out mutually suitable arrangements for their payment
- Contribute to a culture where privacy and confidentiality are assured
- Act as positive advocates for their children
- Contribute to the development of a safe and healthy environment for students, staff and the wider College community
- Acknowledge and support the work of the College Council and associated committees
- Promote and encourage among the parent community a collective responsibility to support the Charter for Parents and Caregivers of St Columba College

**In holding positions of responsibility within the St Columba College community, parent leaders are expected to:**

- Act as an example within the College community, by modelling a belief in God who loves us absolutely and thus calls us to believe that everyone matters absolutely.
- Work constructively with the Principal, the staff and the wider College community
- Act as advocates for all College policies and expectations within the parent community
- Build and nurture a sense of community