**INTEGRITY (COMMUNITY LIFE)**

This search for the Truth in ourselves and in God's creation leads us to be people of integrity who respect ourselves and others, and God's creation. By working together we can transform our world for the better. Integrity will be fostered, respected, encouraged and committed to upholding the Truth. To be responsible for what one does and encourages others to evidence the values of being humble, trustworthy, and of being the change and freedom to change those things that should be changed. Truth involves having the integrity to be who we are truly called to be. Only faith in the presence of Jesus gives us the power to transform our lives and live truth in love of our neighbours with compassion, justice and peace. When we exercise integrity, our lives will help establish a world of truth and justice for all to see. This is a lifelong journey of growth in our spiritual life which we uphold with integrity, courage and hope.

**CONTEMPLATION (PRAYER)**

Contemplation is the foundation of our actions. To contemplate is to be still and quiet in what we have heard and how our actions affect others. This is aided by our prayer and meditation that is taught and practised daily to develop our relationship with Jesus Christ, which is the basis of our contemplation and prayer. The object of our contemplation is the Truth. The Truth is then expressed through our teachings and our actions as we share the truth of our contemplation. God is love and an inspiration for us all. In contemplation we seek wisdom, self-knowledge and an understanding of our soul and its salvation. It is in this journey that within us we can then lead a life of service and see the dignity and beauty within all.

**TRUTH (STUDY)**

Truth is the goal for all our pursuits, for in the search and attainment of knowledge we learn more about and grow in our relationship with God. Not only do we grow in knowledge of God and creation, but also in understanding more about ourselves, although we learn ultimately comes from God, it is the pursuit of Truth that brings us closer to Him. With this in mind we strive to seek the Truth in all areas of our lives especially our studies. This search for Truth includes discovering what is true, in a world that is inundated with information. Whether it is in the truth we find in the science or the humanities, or in the theatre and the sporting field we always have the search for Truth as the foundation of ourselves and the school community. Truth is the beacon which illuminates our minds to the world around us and fosters our spiritual growth. Each community member reaches their full potential.

**ACTION (SERVICE)**

Being people of integrity informs the way we conduct ourselves and provides the foundation for our actions, both towards ourselves and the world in which we live. Our actions are guided by our baptismal call to love God and our neighbour. All students are called to love and serve others and to care for Creation. When students exercise their integrity, they are serving Christ. In their actions towards others they are serving Christ. In their actions towards others they are serving God. Through our actions we are called to mirror Christ's love in our relationships, in our treatment of others, and in our actions to allow teachers to teach and students to learn. We expect students to stand up for the Truth in what they say and do, even when this is difficult. A Blackfriars Priory students will be genuine in every area of school life, in their academic efforts and their interactions with other students and staff. This authentic action creates unity and community.
STRATEGIC PLAN 16-20
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.

Situated on 4.5 hectares of land on the fringe of Adelaide’s business district and adjacent to an expanse of parks and ovals, Blackfriars Priory School provides modern facilities with world-class tuition for students from Early Learning to Year 12. Established in 1953 through the dedicated work and mission of the Dominican Friars, Blackfriars Priory School has remained committed to the provision of excellence in boys’ education.

The Blackfriars Priory School experience engages the spirit, mind and body in the pursuit of knowledge; students are offered the resources and opportunities to explore and ask questions; learn and develop confidence in their abilities; and identify and excel in their natural strengths.

Our philosophy is to educate boys in the pursuit of truth, through a life of contemplation and action. We are a Christ centred Eucharistic community and this is reflected in all facets of our learning and teaching, including, an active prayer life and a passion for ministry, justice, peace, equality, religious education and pastoral care.

Our Dominican ethos and the Four Pillars command us to recognise and accept the differences in ability and gifts of each student and differentiate learning and teaching appropriately. We synthesise faith and reason; recognising the signs of the times, so as to inspire boys to become fully human and reach their potential as balanced, humble men, who have a deep love for the world in which they live.

We make every effort to accommodate the unique needs of each student, striving for academic success and producing young men at graduation who are informed and critical in their thinking and are globally aware.
Our Mission
Our Mission is founded on our stewardship of God’s creation to reach its full potential. Blackfriars Priory School is a Catholic Dominican school for boys which promotes the spiritual, intellectual, physical and social development of each member of the school community. It aims, in co-operation with parents, to engage students in an educational experience within the context of a Christian community which is fulfilling and rewarding.

Our Vision
To deliver excellence in boys’ education through the provision of a transformative, vibrant and reflective learning community that equips and inspires our students to confidently and successfully participate as men of integrity in a rapidly changing world.
Four Pillars of Dominican Life

Prayer
- Spiritual lives of students, staff and families
- Catholic faith within the Dominican tradition
- Personal responsibility and self-discipline in healthy and life-giving relationships

Study
- Education for boys to meet specific needs and prepare for an ever changing world
- Love of learning in each community member
- Each community member reaches their full potential

Community
- Individual self-esteem and integrity within a caring School community
- Ethic of service to the community
- Democracy, social justice and environmental awareness

Service
- Knowledge-centered search for God in daily lives
- Search for truth or Veritas as embodied in Dominican motto
- School policies that reflect genuine solidarity with the poor and disadvantaged
As a school community we strive to achieve our Learning and Teaching objective through:

- a Learning and Teaching Framework that reviews and implements learning programs and pedagogical practices which inspire our students to be self-determining, reflective, deeply engaged and learners for life
- a diverse, challenging and creative curriculum, which appropriately reflects the Australian Curriculum and fosters our Catholic ethos and academic excellence to prepare our students for tomorrow’s world
- evidence-based research and innovation through the analysis of data that informs and directs the enhancement of holistic learning and teaching
- sustainable and effective partnerships with tertiary, community and business organisations that value add to the learning experience through inquiry-based and beyond-the-classroom opportunities
- active involvement of parents and the wider community in the academic education, Catholic faith and personal development of our students
- educational practice and improved learning outcomes through the continued application of new and emerging technologies and platforms
- cross school engagement and utilisation of resources to facilitate a seamless transition for students from ELC-12
- preschool education and care provision through the Early Learning Centre
- innovative and integrated co-curricular experiences that complement personal development and build on the innate and inspired God-given talents of each student

During 2016–2020 Blackfriars Priory School will strengthen the Learning and Teaching objective through the focus on the following Action Priorities:

- A curriculum that engages students across ELC-12 with an evidence based pedagogical framework that addresses the learning needs of girls in the ELC and boys throughout their schooling.
- Student capabilities for life and work in the 21st century
- Use of digital technologies to enhance 21st century learning across the curriculum, particularly in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics.
As a school community we strive to achieve our Wellbeing objective through:

- a Wellbeing Framework that supports student personal and spiritual development
- programs and structures that enhance the wellbeing, resilience and spiritual growth of boys so as to ensure that all students feel safe and secure at school
- restorative processes and systems that improve and promote effective and positive relationships between students, staff and families and encourages boys to accept responsibility and accountability for their choices
- staff and parents embracing wellbeing as a core responsibility with the clear understanding of their role in pastoral care at Blackfriars Priory School
- students having a strong sense of, and respect for, self and community so that each student’s story is valued as being individual and sacred

During 2016–2020 Blackfriars Priory School will strengthen the Wellbeing objective through the focus on the following Action Priorities:

- Consistent use of a whole-of-school wellbeing framework and its connections with the four pillars
- Whole-of-School restorative practices for students to take responsibility for their behaviour
- Active engagement of students in school decision-making.
As a school community we strive to achieve our Vibrant Community objective through:

- effective partnerships with parents and carers, the Catholic Church, government, educational sectors, sporting and cultural groups and business communities
- a generous, vibrant and egalitarian community that embraces cultural diversity
- meaningful relationships to ensure the School is valued by the community, through increased community awareness and participation in school activities
- a Stewardship Council that stimulates a desire across our School community to share and actively engage with our Dominican values
- strategic management of the Blackfriars Priory School Foundation
- new technologies that provide the platform for genuine and frequent communication flows between and across our parents, carers and community stakeholder groups
- positive engagement with all graduates and old scholars to create and encourage a lasting relationship with Blackfriars Priory School
- promotion of the positive experiences of Blackfriars Priory School across the wider community

During 2016–2020 Blackfriars Priory School will strengthen the Vibrant Community objective through the focus on the following Action Priorities:

- Engagement practices to build connections within the Blackfriars Priory School community – including its Old Scholars, its diverse cultures, and the wider community
- Promoting and marketing the uniqueness of the Blackfriars Priory School educational program based on the Dominican Four Pillars.
As a School community we strive to achieve our People and Culture objective through:

- human resource capabilities that provide an environment where staff receive regular feedback about their strengths and development
- processes to attract, retain, develop and reward outstanding and committed staff
- staff clearly articulating their role and the alignment of their role to the Pillars of Dominican Life and the School’s Strategic Plan
- staff striving for excellence within the organisation and being provided with opportunities to develop spiritually, professionally and emotionally
- staff serving as strong role models throughout the School community

During 2016–2020 Blackfriars Priory School will strengthen the People and Culture objective through the focus on the following Action Priorities:

- Scheduled time for teaching and support staff for professional dialogue and development
- Performance management systems to enhance professional capacity and respectful behaviours.

To foster a team of dedicated and progressive professionals and a supportive workplace culture.
As a school community we strive to achieve our Financial Strength, Infrastructure and Resources objective through:

- quality school improvement and transformation through accountable and transparent processes that effectively review and evaluate our service provision across all facets of the School’s operations
- ensuring our financial position meets current and future commitments
- a five-year Financial Plan that intrinsically aligns with and supports our Strategic Plan and Master Plan
- enhancing the recurrent resource base through the effective engagement of the Blackfriars Priory School Foundation with the wider community
- fees at appropriate levels so they remain accessible, competitive and allow for the delivery of agreed educational outcomes
- fee assistance to parents to appropriately reflect Dominican values, ministry and community life
- a Master Plan that mirrors the intent of our Strategic Plan and will flexibly respond to curriculum and pedagogical developments and advancements
- an environmentally sustainable approach to school design and resource usage.

During 2016–2020 Blackfriars Priory School will strengthen the Financial Strength, Infrastructure and Resources objective through the focus on the following Action Priorities:

- A strong financial base and capacity for strategic investments
- School governance processes for financial decision-making.
School Executive leads the development of implementation plans for the Priority Actions that detail the strategies, key performance indicators, timelines and responsibilities for their achievement.

School Board monitors and evaluates the progress of the Strategic Plan through reports and data received that align with the Priority Actions.