



St Catherine's School

⊕ ST CATHERINE'S SCHOOL

LIFE AT ST CATHERINE'S



ST CATHERINE'S MOTTO NIL MAGNUM NISI BONUM

NOTHING IS GREAT
UNLESS IT IS GOOD



OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Values should not be merely beautiful words. They must be our behavioural blueprint. In all we do, we ask the question - does this promote what we value most?

Integrity Curiosity Perseverance Empathy





Proud history with a progressive approach

Boarding and Day School provides diversity and international influences

Close community with over 700 students

Non-denominational Christian School with strong values

Catering for three year old girls to VCE (ELC includes boys)

Situated close to the city, in picturesque surrounds



WELCOME

Since its foundation in 1896, St Catherine's has established a fine tradition of educating generations of remarkable women. Today, the School combines a proud history with contemporary thinking and a commitment to quality education to nurture confident, capable and healthy young women.

Our core values of Integrity, Curiosity, Perseverance and Empathy are the foundation of our educational programs.

At St Catherine's School, the rich learning environment enables young women to thrive and lead in a global society through their dedication to academic achievement, personal integrity and social responsibility.

As Principal, I am often asked to describe the very essence of St Catherine's School. Most noteworthy are the authentic learning experiences and quality of teaching provided by our professional and dedicated staff. St Catherine's girls benefit from a high level of individualised academic care and an emphasis on creating an innovative and vibrant education, pertinent for the 21st century.

As a non-denominational Christian school, with boarding for rural and international students, St Catherine's offers an encouraging environment that enables students to develop a passion for learning and the opportunity to participate in an extensive range of co-curricular activities. We aim to strengthen our students' sense of purpose in the world through involvement in a rich tapestry of national and global experiences, including

overseas study tours, exchange programs and community service expeditions.

The educational setting of our Early Learning Centre is also one to behold; children enjoy a supportive, student-focused environment where the emphasis of the learning experiences are underpinned by a philosophy of creativity, exploration and discovery.

The quality relationships within our community are at the heart of St Catherine's School. Our Old Girls form part of a dynamic network of outstanding women who clearly demonstrate the commitment, independence and aspiration that distinguish a St Catherine's girl. Our parents are actively encouraged to be part of their daughters' education through involvement in our PFA and supporting Auxiliaries in the Cultural and Sporting programs. These are, undoubtedly, essential components of the strength and fabric of St Catherine's today.

I look forward to welcoming you to St Catherine's School.

Mrs Michelle Carroll
MEd, BEd, GradDipHlth, MACEL, AFAIM
Principal



The St Catherine's difference

When your daughter joins St Catherine's, your family becomes part of our close and supportive community. Students, teachers and parents who have experienced other schools, often comment on the amazing feeling of belonging that is enjoyed by all at St Catherine's. The diversity and inclusiveness of the School population is one of our greatest strengths.

Past students are regular visitors, eager to return to their School for careers talks, to mentor current students and to assist with productions or sporting teams. Close connections with past students and their families gives St Catherine's an incomparable network of influential people who are available as speakers and mentors for our current students.

Parents and Grandparents are a valued part of the St Catherine's experience. Through active committees like the Parents' and Friends' Association, there are numerous opportunities for you to be involved. Family events give us all the chance to get to know one another, celebrate achievements and raise money and awareness for important social causes such as disadvantaged youth or refugees, and for the School.

Education is a partnership between teachers, students and their parents and your opinions and ideas are important to us. Our School Council comprises both elected parents and appointed members, which ensures that we are governed by people who have the greatest commitment, knowledge and passion for our students' learning and wellbeing.



Our advantages

Outstanding VCE results

Whilst our students are enjoying creative and active school days, we never lose sight of the importance of academic achievement. On average, 31% of our students receive an ATAR of above 95 and 53% achieve above 90. Compared with a state average of 20%, approximately 77% of our students achieve an ATAR of 80 or higher.

Inclusive size, greater opportunities

Our extensive range of subjects and activities is comparable with many larger schools and yet our size means that no-one is overlooked. At St Catherine's, it is not just the elite sportspeople or the most proficient musicians who perform. Every girl is involved, and it is our team spirit, dedication and inspiring teaching that see our students consistently rise to outstanding results.

Personalised attention

Education is not just about the mind. It is about the whole person – physical, spiritual, intellectual and emotional. Our small class sizes enable teachers to know your daughter personally, to help her to identify her talents, abilities and develop her learning style. Students are encouraged to pursue their individual interests and are provided with opportunities to step out of their comfort zone and amaze us all.

Independent Learning Classes

Our Independent Learning Classes see St Catherine's once again at the forefront of educational thinking and practice. This program is available to students of high intellectual potential whose style of learning or lifestyle commitments do not suit the traditional classroom. Through her own personal learning framework, every girl has the opportunity to succeed.

A UNIQUE COMMUNITY



Welcoming and diverse community

Family-focused

Community that gives back

Strong parent involvement

Extensive business and social networks

Connectedness with past students

St Catherine's students volunteer their time at FareShare's Schools in the Kitchen Program



IN THE CLASSROOM

Come on a journey along 'St Catherine's Walk' - a path through the School that connects all our students. Making the most of our one-campus advantage, there are several cross-age activities which give older students the opportunity to act as mentors and, our younger students the chance to interact with older positive role models. Our whole-School collaborative approach provides students with smooth transitions, consistency and the development of the knowledge base, without unnecessary repetition.

Technology is used extensively across the curriculum and we see it as a vital life skill for the 21st Century. Features of our technology program include flexible and shared ICT resources in the Junior School, a Notebook program from Year 5 to VCE, interactive whiteboards and projectors, and new generation technology such as 'touch' and 'cloud', enhancing teaching and learning in our classrooms.

We believe our excellent VCE results stem from the early development of intellectual curiosity and independent thinking, combined with the expectation to aim high and work together for success.

Across all levels, our teachers encourage students to develop critical, creative and higher order thinking, preparing them for the rapidly-changing world around us. The progress of all our students is monitored carefully. Students who require extension or support are provided with additional opportunities such as access to University subjects or modified programs to address individual needs.

Special highlights

Co-educational Early Learning Centre for 3 and 4 year olds

Our program is based on the world-renowned Reggio Emilia philosophy which celebrates the natural curiosity of children. Situated in Campbell House, the light-filled rooms provide purpose-built spaces that inspire our girls and boys to discover and learn.

Junior School for girls only from Prep to Year 6

The St Catherine's Junior School is focused on developing your daughter through the critical formative years. Specialising in individual learning programs, our highly qualified teachers are dedicated

to discovering how your daughter learns and addressing her individual learning needs. Literacy and Numeracy are key focus areas to ensure that all students have a solid foundation in these essential skills. Our expansive curriculum also includes Science and Technology, Ethics, Religion and Philosophy, Personal Development, French and the Arts.

Senior School for girls only from Year 7 to VCE

Years 7 and 8: In the transition years, your daughter will be encouraged to reach a sense of self-awareness and understanding about the way she learns; her social interactions; and her place in the wider community. Laying the foundations for future learning, students participate in a range of guided opportunities in the classroom, with subjects taught in an engaging and comprehensive manner.

Years 9 and 10: These two years are the building blocks to VCE success, with many of the habits and disciplines required to perform at Year 12 being taught and modelled for students. Our program focuses on consolidating

students' learning and preparing the girls to take full advantage of the varied leadership opportunities which await them in their senior years. The extensive elective program at Years 9 and 10 gives students the chance to select subjects which will challenge and extend them and allow them to gain a breadth of experience. Your daughter will also have the opportunity to study for her Leadership Diploma, a qualification unique to St Catherine's.

VCE: Our broad VCE offerings and our comprehensive careers counselling ensure your daughter's VCE program will be well designed to realise her ambitions. In the senior years, leadership potential is realised, initiative and intellectual curiosity is deepened and collaborative and supportive learning with St Catherine's staff takes on a stronger one-on-one focus.

PAST STUDENT PROFILE

"St Catherine's focuses on seeing students excel academically and as a result, most of my peers went to university, many of whom might not otherwise have had the opportunity. I really value that focus now, because my degree taught me how to research and think critically for myself. These are skills I now employ every day - both personally and professionally.

St Catherine's gave me the confidence to believe I could do whatever I wanted in life if I set my mind to it. I didn't realise how important this was until later in life, and I credit the School for instilling that in me. The strong sense of spirit and community stems from the nurturing, family feel of the School!"

CAROLYN CRESWELL

ST CATHERINE'S OLD GIRL 1991
Founder of Carman's Fine Foods,
2007 Young Entrepreneur of the
Year and 2012 Telstra Australian
Business Woman of the Year.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Your daughter will discover numerous learning opportunities and immense excitement beyond the classroom at St Catherine's. One of our many impressive features is the exceptionally high level of participation of our girls in a full range of curricular and co-curricular activities. Whether it is debating, singing, literature, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award or environmental campaigning, there are many clubs and programs to ignite your daughter's passions.

Art

Our fully renovated visual arts studios for painting, ceramics and sculpture, drawing, print-making and photography are housed in 'Wiltondale', our spacious and sunlit Visual Arts Centre. The eclectic mix of history with modern design creates a synergy that inspires our young artists and the results are proudly displayed throughout the School.

Drama

Our dancers and actors delight in showcasing varied and challenging performances from modern Australian plays, to original choreography, to reinterpretations of classic musicals.

Music

We are bold about our music making at St Catherine's. Catering to all musical tastes and skills, the School's own Music Soundhouse is a creative hub of melodies and rhythms as students use the latest technology to compose, mix and arrange their own songs and musical pieces. Our extensive instrumental and vocal program includes a variety of orchestras and bands, as well as classical and contemporary ensembles. All students are given the opportunity to explore different music genres, through the classroom or co-curricular programs.

Sports

Whether for fun, fitness or the thrill of serious competition, our sports program offers your daughter the opportunity to select from more than 20 sports and participate at the level of her choice. Traditionally strong in sports such as gymnastics, rowing, snowsports and athletics, St Catherine's is also recognised as a formidable opponent in more recently-popular sports including Australian Rules, Water Polo and Surf Lifesaving. With expert coaching available, many of our students are at



the top of their field and we are also privileged to have nurtured numerous elite athletes who have represented Australia.

The Great Outdoors

Beyond Boundaries is St Catherine's sequential Outdoor Education program, which encourages students to push their own personal boundaries in a supportive and safe outdoor environment. Whether they are rafting down a difficult rapid, hiking through the rugged Alpine National Park, or simply spending the night away from home in the junior years, girls are encouraged to understand their identity, their community and their relationship with the natural world through physical adventures.



Smaller school – increased opportunities for each girl

Outstanding artists are cultivated (student works regularly selected for VCE Top Arts Exhibition held at the NGV)

Inclusive Sports program and dynamic Outdoor Education expeditions from Years 1 to 10

Instrumental tuition from woodwind to strings, piano, percussion, vocal and brass



AN INDIVIDUAL FOCUS

St Catherine's invests extensive resources in caring for each student's health, wellbeing and spirituality. Our Director of Wellbeing ensures that School programs, staff training and parent information sessions focus on the needs of your daughter as a whole person.

We are experts in the developmental stages of girls from childhood through to late adolescence. Based on educational research and our experience, we know that single-sex education offers girls the greatest chance to ignore stereotypes, develop strong self worth and grow in confidence.

We acknowledge that social problems do exist, and educate our students to be well equipped to make responsible decisions. Our comprehensive and practical wellbeing program covers social and health areas including bullying prevention, drugs and alcohol, study skills, cybersafety, young driver education and healthy eating.

The central message of our Ethical Programs is to respect and value all people and their beliefs. Alongside an exploration of the Christian religion, other world religions are discussed and through meditation and stories, students reflect on the deeper purpose in life. Community service is an important expression of our strong values. Throughout the year, there are many student-organised fundraisers for charities and other important causes, providing our students with awareness of social issues and the opportunity to make a difference, often by volunteering their time in the community.

Comprehensive wellbeing program with practical advice

Expertise in the developmental needs of girls

Clear ethical teaching (including Religion) which promotes respect for all people

Important focus on community service

AN INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

St Catherine's students experience the whole world as their classroom. Through the curriculum we teach each student to understand her role and responsibility as a global citizen. The International Club celebrates the diversity of our student population and gives everyone the chance to share their cultural experiences through special activities and assemblies.

Students have the option to study French, Japanese and Mandarin. Many students choose to participate in individual or group exchanges within our established networks of international schools.

Language exchanges to France and Japan and cultural exchanges to the United Kingdom and the United States of America are offered. Study tours to Italy, France, Japan and China and community service experiences to South East Asia are also popular, especially for those studying History, Art and Geography at senior levels.

Our international students have extensive support in English as a Second Language to ensure that they can benefit from all that St Catherine's offers in the curricular and co-curricular areas.



PAST STUDENT PROFILE

"St Catherine's excels at bringing out the best in each student. I was encouraged to participate in Japanese classes two years above my own year level which made a significant difference to my language skills.

After visiting Japan in Year 11 on a student exchange I had every intention of becoming a pilot. Then through careers counselling at School, I discovered the creative and challenging world of aerospace engineering. I thought, more exciting than flying a plane, why don't I design them? I would not be who I am now without the opportunities provided to me by St Catherine's."

FELICITY EDWARDS

ST CATHERINE'S OLD GIRL 2002
Aerospace Engineer for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in Nagoya, Japan



Global responsibility promoted

Language studies offered for four year olds onwards

Opportunities for cultural and language exchanges

Experienced in caring for international students

LIFE AT ST CATHERINE'S



Internationally acclaimed boarding house

Beautifully restored historic buildings

Purpose-designed spaces for music, visual arts and sports

Refurbished Early Learning Centre

Well-maintained gardens and open spaces

Respect for the past and future



A stroll through the grounds

Set on one attractive campus, the School's historic buildings and modern refurbishments create a magnificent blend of the past with the present. With plenty of open space, playing fields and manicured gardens, our students enjoy a beautiful and comfortable learning environment. We take great pride in the appearance of our School and developing state-of-the-art facilities to meet the needs of our students.

The St Catherine's Walk conveniently connects the Junior and Senior learning spaces. During our busy School days, the Walk comes to life as our students enter the Centre for Ethics and Enterprise for commerce and leadership studies; the St Catherine's Hall for weekly School Assemblies; the custom designed Visual Arts Centre to explore their creativity; and our two new sports fields for physical education.

Our community is currently very excited about our new environmentally sustainable sports and aquatic facility, The Marigold Southey Centre. Featuring a 25 metre pool with six lanes, learners' pool, one metre diving board, fitness room and flexible classroom, the complex has been designed with all our students in mind. Our students enjoy Learn to Swim classes, aquatic activities and squad training sessions.

We are custodians of the past, active in the present and planners for the future. With a focus on sustainability, our strategic plan drives development in a thoughtful and appropriate manner. Through installation of water tanks and careful environmental management, St Catherine's is well on the way to being classed a Five Star Sustainable School.



Living at St Catherine's

St Catherine's has an enviable international reputation as one of the finest boarding schools in Australia commencing when the School opened its doors in 1896. Our boarders call Illawarra their home. The renovated, National Trust-listed Victorian mansion is a place to unwind at the end of the school day, share experiences, obtain academic support from tutors and participate in dances, outings and cultural events. Under the care and supervision of experienced staff, our boarders experience an extended family and develop lifelong friends. Central to the life of the whole School, we embrace the urban, rural and international influences of our boarders.



PAST STUDENT PROFILE

"At School I learned that hard work is eventually rewarded, luck is created, enthusiasm is essential and it is okay to be an individual, as long as you are true to yourself. Collaborating with the Principal to rewrite school rules was an unreal learning experience at the age of 17, and it made negotiating the boardrooms of high profile corporations around the world a little less daunting. In between pursuing my love of travel (I recently visited my 50th country, Croatia). I have enjoyed many Vice President positions in the finance industry including roles in Strategic Planning, e-Business and Marketing. Having now moved to the country with my husband and two daughters, I have been fortunate to find three Old Girls living in nearby towns, and our friendships have picked up where they had left off! The St Catherine's community is enduring; the spirit, loyal!"

MELISSA SWEETLAND

ST CATHERINE'S OLD GIRL AND BOARDER 1986
Manager - Retail and Distribution
Hume Building Society



Convenient location

The School is conveniently located in Heyington Place in Toorak, Melbourne; a suburb known for its broad leafy streets and family homes. Our proximity to Melbourne's central business district allows easy access to galleries, theatres, museums, shopping, sporting and entertainment facilities. Very accessible by train, tram and bus, students travel to School from a variety of suburbs across Melbourne. St Catherine's also operates two private bus services which are popular with many families.

Your invitation

We hope this glimpse of St Catherine's has given you a vision of the expanding opportunities that await your daughter, and we now encourage you to take a deeper look. There are many specific questions you may like to ask which are particular to your daughter, her interests and her year level. We suggest you join us for a School Tour or arrange a personal viewing at a time that suits you. Our staff and students will be happy to answer all your questions about St Catherine's and how your daughter can be a part of this legacy of great women.

Enrolment details and an Application for Entry are included with this prospectus and can also be found on our website. Our Registrar is always available to discuss the process with you.

TAKE A DEEPER LOOK

PAST STUDENT PROFILE

"The belief was nurtured in me at School, as at home, that I could embark upon the career of my choice - any career. Significantly, that was in the 60s, when the 'women's liberation' movement was just beginning, but we were still empowered to be independent of mind and spirit.

Three generations of my family have attended St Catherine's. I see the core values of excellence in education and community awareness travelling through those generations. But this is also a contemporary school, presenting girls with every technological, as well as traditional opportunity to develop their knowledge and to develop themselves."

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE LINDA DESSAU

ST CATHERINE'S OLD GIRL 1969
Judge, Family Court of Australia;
Community and Charity Volunteer and
AFL Commissioner





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