



## Santa Maria College

*Mercy, Compassion, Justice, Service, Excellence*

### SANTA MARIA COLLEGE

Established in 1938

By the Sisters of Mercy, Perth

Catholic Day and Boarding College for Girls

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Cricos No. 00737C

*"Doing ordinary things extraordinarily well"*

Catherine McAuley



Santa Maria College offers a unique educational experience that combines academic excellence with faith, compassion and service.

## OUR MISSION

Santa Maria College is a Years 5 - 12 Catholic school for girls, both day and boarding, offering a quality education inspired by Jesus Christ and the vision of Catherine McAuley, with a commitment to living out the values of:

*Mercy*  
*Compassion*  
*Justice*  
*Service*  
*Excellence*



*Mercy, Compassion, Justice, Service, Excellence*

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# HERITAGE & VALUES

Santa Maria College is committed to educating young women to be the leaders of tomorrow within the context of a rich and illustrious past. Its vibrant, modern facilities are underpinned by a strong Catholic heritage and inspired by the vision of the Sisters of Mercy.

Nestled in picturesque gardens overlooking the Swan River in Perth, Western Australia, Santa Maria was founded in 1938 for boarders and day students.

From the outset, the College has been renowned for its innovative style and progressive teaching and learning methods. It was here the Sisters of Mercy continued the tradition of educational excellence created by their founder, Catherine McAuley.

In the nineteenth century, Catherine McAuley established the Sisters of Mercy, imparting to them a vision of girls' education that encompassed learning along with justice, compassion and concern for others.

To this day, Santa Maria College fosters these fundamental values, creating an invigorating environment in which young women are encouraged to grow and develop their unique talents and abilities.



# Spiritual



Integral to the everyday life at Santa Maria College is the Catholic faith. Students attend Religious Education classes, daily prayer and liturgical celebrations marking religious occasions and important College milestones. Students' personal faith is developed and strengthened through retreats and reflection days.

The Chapel, with its stunning stained glass windows, is a popular wedding venue for former students and maintains a strong link between the College and its Alumni.

Consistent effort is made to infuse the College with a Christian spirit of service that reinforces the Mercy values of Justice and Compassion. This legacy encourages students to spend time helping others in need through active participation in voluntary organisations and programs such as Young Mercies, Young Vinnies, Eco Sisters, Young Christian Students, Christian Service and the Indigenous Immersion Program.

The continuing inspiration of the Sisters of Mercy is reflected in the College Scholarship Program. This comprises academic, music, performing arts and boarding scholarships named after Sisters who have contributed greatly to both the College and the students of Santa Maria College.



# FACILITIES

At Santa Maria College, we pride ourselves on providing the best state of the art facilities for our community. Our student centred learning spaces, together with the use of modern technologies, ensures a great environment for girls to learn and grow.



In recent years the College has significantly invested in its campus facilities and technologies and is now proud to be positioned as a leader in technology amongst Catholic, Independent and State schools in Western Australia.

## Technologies

Under the College's 1:1 Laptop Program, every student from Years 7-12 has her own Apple Macbook Laptop for use in class and at home. A stable wireless network is in place throughout the College and students have access to highly skilled, specialist staff to cover all aspects of Information Technology & Communication.



## Campus

The College was established in 1938 and is situated on six and a half hectares of land in the picturesque suburb of Attadale, south of Perth City. The campus offers spectacular views across the Swan River and city skyline and exudes a wonderful openness and natural beauty with gardens and parklands close by.



Other facilities include:

- Boarding facilities for more than 150 students
- Beautifully landscaped gardens that provide outdoor learning and reflection spaces
- Interactive smartboards and multimedia projectors in each classroom
- A double storey Library and Learning Plaza with flexible learning spaces
- Junior School Learning and Playground Areas
- A dedicated Year 7 Learning Area including break-out classrooms
- A large Gymnasium/Conference Centre including flexible seating and audio-visual screens
- Fitness Centre
- Visual Arts Building
- Performing Arts Theatre
- College Community Room
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Outdoor Swimming Pool



# CURRICULUM

The academic curriculum has been developed to inspire young women to pursue their dreams, to enhance their learning experience, and to empower them to reach their full potential.



The curriculum at Santa Maria College is broad and fosters the development of independent, self directed learning, critical thinking skills and the integration of advanced information technology. The learning program for all students is in accordance with the Western Australian Curriculum Framework Guidelines but will change in the future as we move to a National Curriculum.

The College is made up of the three sub-schools i.e. Junior School, Middle School and Senior School. Each of these Learning Communities provide appropriate curriculum and a balanced learning environment where all girls are encouraged to reach their personal best.

Santa Maria College offers an Enhanced Learning Plan (ELP) to all students from Years 5 to 12. The ELP is an exciting initiative designed to develop the learning potential of all students and comprises both co-curricular and embedded curricular activities.



# *Intellectual*

## **Junior School (Years 5 and 6)**

The approach in the Years 5 and 6 teaching and learning program is both stimulating and challenging, with emphasis on establishing strong foundations in literacy and numeracy. All students experience the languages and liberal arts programs at the College. As with all the Learning Communities, students are supported and extended no matter where they are on their educational journey.

Each class size is set at a maximum of twenty-four students. This initiative together with the use of specialist secondary teachers further enhances the learning environment.

## **Middle School (Years 7, 8 and 9)**

The Middle School aims to optimise the learning opportunities of young women so that their potential to live and work in contemporary society, now and in the future, is enhanced. In order to achieve this aim the Middle School devotes considerable time to 'learning how to learn'. This is achieved through cross-curricular activities involving problem solving, critical thinking, technology-rich learning experiences and higher order thinking.

The Middle School is committed to the needs of early adolescents as they journey through this period of change in their lives. The pastoral and academic curriculum is linked to provide age-appropriate experiences that build resilience and empower young women to value themselves and those around them.





# CURRICULUM

## Senior School (Years 10, 11 and 12)

Senior students in Years 10 to 12 prepare for learning pathways beyond school. Students can choose to pursue a university entrance pathway or an Access Learning pathway. Building on the strong multi-disciplinary foundation provided in the Middle School, Santa Maria College students continuously excel in tertiary entrance rankings across the Humanities, Arts, Languages, Mathematics and Sciences.

The College's Access Learning program also enjoys a history of excellence and leads students to university, TAFE, traineeships, apprenticeships and the workforce. Students have the opportunity to participate in accredited work experience through the Innovative Skills Training and Education Program (INSTEP).

The Learning Plaza has extended opening hours four nights a week to support and assist students in their research and study requirements.

The Senior School further prepares students for 'life-long learning' by offering activities such as peer mentoring, study groups and tutorial sessions.

For detailed curriculum information please visit the College website [www.santamaria.wa.edu.au](http://www.santamaria.wa.edu.au).



# PASTORAL CARE

At Santa Maria College, the Pastoral Care program expands beyond traditional boundaries, nurturing a caring educational community where each student is known and valued as an individual and feels included within the College.

Our Pastoral Care program is delivered across all year groups and covers issues that relate to students' development phases as young women. The program teaches students resiliency and time management skills, stress management, decision making strategies, techniques for successful relationships and leadership training. Most importantly, the Pastoral Care program ensures a comfortable transition from one Learning Community to the next.

Within each year group, students are assigned to one of eight Houses. These smaller House groups allow the girls to develop positive relationships with their peers and staff. All students are encouraged to take an active role in their House by participating in spiritual, sporting, cultural and community service activities.

## Support Networks

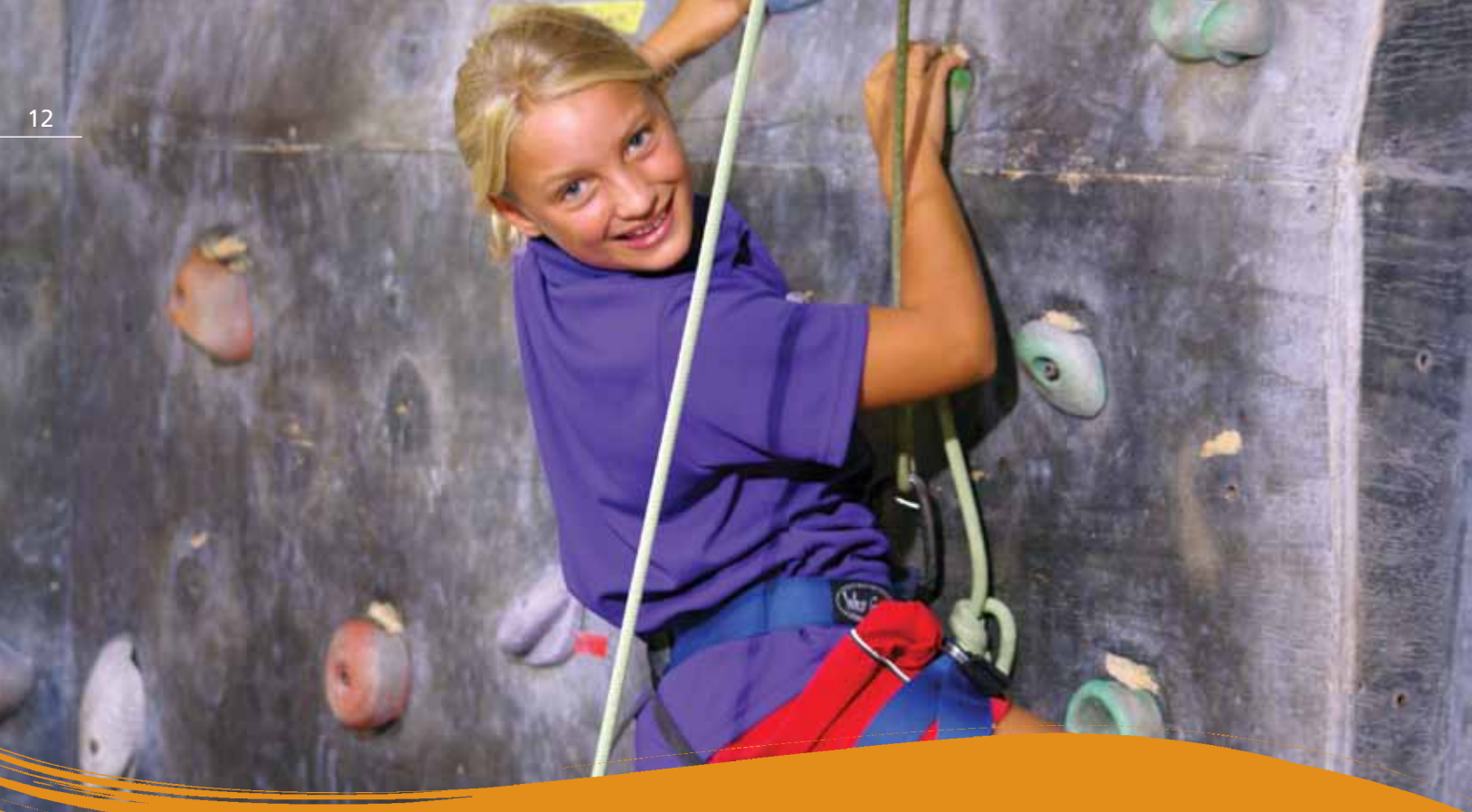
The transition from Junior to Middle School is facilitated through a Peer Support program, where older girls mentor younger students. The College also equips senior students for life after school by providing access to work experience, traineeships, careers advice and transition programs into tertiary learning.

Staff and parents are encouraged to work together and are supported by two College Counsellors and a Pastoral Team, who help students maximise their performance during their schooling at Santa Maria College.

An enthusiastic and highly energetic Parent Council runs four special interest groups ensuring parents are actively involved in their daughter's education and in other aspects of College life.



*Emotional*



# SPORT & RECREATION

Challenge, teamwork and fun are all part of an exciting recreation program that combines sport with a wide selection of modern leisure and fitness activities.



Physical Education is a key component of the Santa Maria College experience and offers students the opportunity to develop new skills and improve their fitness within a safe and well supervised environment. The campus boasts outstanding sporting facilities, including a new gymnasium and fitness centre, swimming pool, tennis and netball courts and a rock climbing wall.

Girls are encouraged to try the many different sports available. Hockey, netball, soccer, basketball, cross country and athletics head the winter sports line up, with the summer season offering volleyball, tennis, cricket, softball, swimming and water polo.

Santa Maria College is an active member of the Independent Girls' Schools' Sporting Association (IGSSA) which hosts competitive interschool sporting meets in all disciplines. The Junior School is also actively involved in sporting events organised through the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA).



An active Interhouse competition allows students to take part in friendly contests within the College Community.

#### **Outdoor Education**

The sports program at Santa Maria College is complemented by an exciting selection of outdoor recreational activities that foster leadership, camaraderie and safety skills.

The College makes extensive use of its unique Swan River location to offer boating, canoeing and snorkelling classes. Students also participate in yearly expeditions to put their Outdoor Education skills into practice. This allows the girls to work with their peers in a natural setting, and is an important adjunct to the College's traditional sporting pursuits.



## ARTS & CULTURE

A vibrant cultural scene is reflected in an inspiring collection of original artwork installations and a bustling activity program offering a range of activities from choral singing to orchestral music, rock bands and fashion parades.



### Music

Santa Maria College has a thriving Music Department with opportunities for students to join choirs, bands and orchestras. A strong emphasis is placed on choral development, enabling students to experience sacred and secular repertoire, as well as jazz and popular music.

Individual and group lessons are available for most instruments. Students involved in any one of the College's many ensembles, such as the Chorale, Orchestra or Jazz Band, have many opportunities to build their confidence by performing in public. Musical styles range from classical through to jazz, pop and rock.

### Drama

Drama is a strong aspect of the College's Performing Arts program. Students develop an appreciation of various theatrical styles and historical periods while having fun building their confidence, cooperation and teamwork skills. Highlights of the drama course include the College Production, Interhouse Arts Festival and the Awards Night performance.



# Cultural

## Dance

A dynamic dance program exposes students to a variety of dance styles and challenges them to develop their talents. Students also have the opportunity to participate in interschool competitions and festivals.

## Visual Arts

The College's visual art studio is a dynamic and creative space where girls can experiment with different media such as painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, printmaking and graphic design.

Original works are exhibited in the College's Mercy Gallery and students also contribute to an ongoing public art program which has produced significant installations around the campus, such as the Mercy Walk mosaic.

## Cultural Events

In addition to the arts, students can take part in mock trials, debating, public speaking, languages and international exchange programs, all designed to increase confidence, build self esteem and challenge critical thinking.

At all times, the young women of Santa Maria College are inspired to take pride in their work. Regular music concerts, along with the annual Art Exhibition and Performing Arts Festival, encourage students to share their achievements with family, friends and the whole College Community.



## BOARDING

Boarding at Santa Maria College is a rich and memorable experience. The College's four boarding houses provide a warm and supportive home environment for more than 150 students.



Boarders have been an integral part of the Santa Maria College community since its foundation.

Girls in each boarding house are supervised by experienced Housemothers and supported by the College Pastoral Team. In addition, students have access to College nurses, a doctor, physiotherapist and a fully equipped Medical Centre.

The residential accommodation is set amongst the scenic grounds on the campus and includes quiet study areas, individual bedrooms and modern cafeteria style dining facilities. The Boarding Houses are a small distance away from the teaching and learning areas, to ensure students feel the distinct difference between school and free time.

At the heart of the boarding complex is a communal recreation centre featuring panoramic views over the Swan River. This is an inviting space for students to gather, play games or watch movies when they are not involved in an exciting program of supervised sporting, cultural and social activities, or enjoying the campus swimming pool, library and ICT resources.

The safe and nurturing environment of the Boarding Community is underpinned by strong Catholic values, a commitment to friendship, spiritual growth and leadership.