



**MERCY CATHOLIC COLLEGE**

CHATSWOOD

EST. 1890



*“Excellence in education that is underpinned by the Catholic faith and building a strong sense of community”*





## Welcome from THE PRINCIPAL

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Mercy Catholic College is a Catholic secondary school for girls, Years 7 to 12, located in the heart of Chatswood.

Our school offers a variety of educational programmes designed and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of students. Great emphasis is placed on academic achievement and the promotion of excellence. The school offers a broad based curriculum that provides students with a range of options and courses in core subjects and a number of vocational based alternatives and life skills courses. Our team of highly qualified and professional teachers provide students with exciting learning experiences that cater for all learners.

Across our learning community we create a happy and caring environment where all students are valued and encouraged to succeed, whatever their individual needs. We assist students to become independent, confident, and resilient learners through a range of exciting opportunities. Our talented and dedicated staff have formed a close working partnership with supportive parents and community members.

Mercy Catholic College is highly regarded for providing excellence in education that is underpinned by the Catholic faith and for building a strong sense of community. The school prides itself on maintaining an excellent reputation within the local and broader community.

This prospectus will give you a glimpse of what our College has to offer. If you require any further information regarding enrolment please do not hesitate to contact us.

Do come and see for yourself on Open Day or book a tour.

Brenda Timp  
**PRINCIPAL**

## Sisters of Mercy OUR HERITAGE

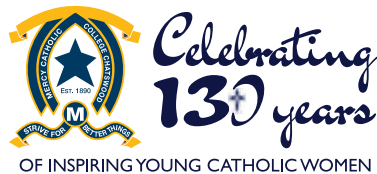
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Mercy Catholic College was established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1890 and has been on the present site since 1905.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded by Catherine McAuley on December 12, 1831 in Dublin, Ireland. The Sisters of Mercy were known as pioneering women who were daring and generous in their mission to reach out to the needs of others by providing education, hospitality and pastoral care, particularly to women.

The Sisters administered the College until 1989 and since then it has been part of the Diocese of Broken Bay system of Catholic schools. Our Catholic education is founded on a partnership of teachers and students with their parents, their parish communities and the Diocese.

As a member of the Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association, we have strong links with all Mercy schools with the aim to further Mercy spiritually and ethos through sharing expertise and resources and by providing national and international forums for Mercy educators.



*“Catherine McAuley’s  
teachings continue to guide  
and inspire our young women  
to Strive for Better Things.”*





And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly,  
to love tenderly  
and to walk humbly  
with our God.

Michiah 6:8

1890



St Catherine's School 1905



Our Lady of Dolours 1942



Catholic Girls High School 1965



Mercy College 1989

ELIORA



*We should be as the compass  
that goes round its  
circle without stirring  
from its centre - our centre  
is God, from whom  
all our actions should spring  
as from their source.*

Catherine McAuley



A group of approximately 15 schoolgirls are posed on a brick staircase. They are all wearing matching school uniforms consisting of short-sleeved, button-down dresses with a white Peter Pan collar and dark buttons. The girls are arranged in several rows, with some standing on the steps and others on the ground. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows the brick wall of the staircase and some green foliage on the right side.

**IN MELIORA CONTENDE**  
Strive For Better Things





## OUR VISION

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Through excellence in education, our students become critical and creative thinkers with a sense of social responsibility and discipleship.

We are committed to providing a high quality education reflected by:

- academic achievement
- high quality care and an emphasis on student wellbeing
- happy students
- successful students.

## OUR MISSION

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The Mercy Catholic College Mission is to work within the Catholic tradition and Mercy charism to educate, empower and inspire independent young women to achieve academic, social and spiritual growth.

## OUR VALUES

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**Respect:** we honour each other, the sacredness of the earth and the resources we share.

**Compassion:** we put into practice an empathic understanding of the individual needs and cultural heritage of others.

**Integrity:** we communicate with sincerity and undertake ethical conduct.

**Excellence:** we aim to achieve the highest possible standard in all endeavours.

**Hospitality:** we create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

## Pastoral Care

# STUDENT WELLBEING

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Mercy Catholic College recognises the worth of each individual. We value the role of the individual within our community, encouraging the understanding that rights must be balanced by responsibilities.

This expectation also extends to discipleship and their responsibility as global citizens. We aim to enhance the wellbeing of each student and develop a sense of social responsibility.

Students are encouraged to develop strong relationships and interact in a positive way with their peers, other students and staff. Specialised staff including the Director of Student Wellbeing, College Counsellor and the Youth Minister work with students on a wide variety of projects involving faith development, social justice and wellbeing.

Students are assisted to develop an understanding of the importance of personal goals, their words, actions and commitment, in relation to learning and living in the school and wider community.

Based on a framework of positive psychology our well-developed pastoral care structure allows support for student's wellbeing. The framework is also supported by programmes including our Vertical Tutor Group system, structured around the College Houses – Mercy, McAuley, Coolock and Stormanston.













## Opportunities for Growth ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Our College is highly regarded for providing excellence in education that is underpinned by building a strong sense of community.

Our teachers take responsibility for educating and inspiring young learners to full success. Professional development of staff assists teachers in the design and delivery of high quality learning programmes that are integrated with emerging technologies.

We provide a wealth of opportunities for students to become confident, resilient and independent learners. A dynamic learning environment based on diverse curricula activities initiated and maintained by a team of caring and dedicated education professionals.

Every student is provided with opportunities to develop skills that will carry them beyond their school years equipping them to go onto University, TAFE and careers beyond.

Please visit our website [www.mercychatswood.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mercychatswood.nsw.edu.au) for a detailed list of subject options.

**“Outstanding results in the Higher School Certificate.  
Ranked in the top 100 schools in the State.”**







# Learning Support

## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

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### **Enrichment**

We believe that students need the skills to move beyond their own perceived capacity or the assumed capacity of a cohort. Ideally, learners set goals for themselves, and reflectively make decisions about their learning choices. Students participate in classes which develop their knowledge about when and where to use particular strategies for learning or problem solving.

Opportunities are provided for students to be involved in numerous competitions such as Tournament of Minds, Senior Science Olympiad Competition, Future Problem Solving, Titration and Australia-wide History, Mathematics, Science and Geography competitions.

### **The Honour Programme**

This programme is to encourage students to achieve to their best ability academically and to be active community members. By being in the top 10% of their cohort, as well as fulfilling a range of social justice and community based commitments. If students meet all the criteria they will graduate from their Year group as an Honour Student.

### **Student Leadership**

The school ensures as many students as possible have the opportunity at some point in their time at the College to be leaders. Each Year group is represented in the portfolios of Liturgy, Mercy Action, Creative Arts & Media, Sport, Environment and senior students have the opportunity to be Captains and Prefects.

### **Learning Support**

We recognise that the needs of our students are diverse and we attempt to accommodate different learning styles and rates of learning. Our Learning Support Team consists of teachers who have post-graduate qualifications in a variety of fields related to Special Education, who are supported by a group of learning assistants who work with individual students in mainstream classes.

## Student Enrichment CO-CURRICULAR

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At Mercy Catholic College, we are interested in the development of the whole person not just the academic, so we offer numerous opportunities for students to participate in co-curricular activities:

- Mercy Action (Social Justice Programme)
- an Overseas Immersion Programme
- variety of sport is offered which includes: netball, touch, basketball, soccer, hockey, tennis, swimming, cricket and cross-country
- Creative Arts Programmes: including private tuition in Speech and Drama and Drama and Dance clubs conducted by tutors. There is also private tuition in piano, woodwind, strings, voice, brass, drums, percussion, flute and guitar. Students also have the opportunity to join our College Band, String Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, a capella choir or College Choir
- Debating and Public Speaking
- Clubs: Catering for special interest such as the Maths, Science, Art, Homework, Study, Film, Movie, Rubic Cube, Walking, Book and Writing Clubs
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which provides students an opportunity to develop new skills, undertake voluntary community service, improve their fitness and partake in camping/hiking expeditions.

**The Blue and Gold Award:** is presented to students who have excelled in areas of co-curricular involvement, community service and social justice activities. Designed to help build self-esteem, the programme has enabled our students to become more confident, interactive members of the community.













## Facilities, Resources COMMUNITY

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Located in the heart of Chatswood, we have two campuses located on both sides of Archer Street, adjacent to Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church. Our College offers modern facilities and state of the art technology in classrooms which is also integrated into areas of the curriculum. Sporting facilities including Beauchamp Oval and the Fitness First Centre are also accessible for the College's use.

Other College facilities include:

- Chapel
- Learning Resource Centre
- Outdoor Amphitheatre
- Multi-use ball courts
- Science laboratories
- Visual Arts and Design and Technology spaces with multiple specialist facilities
- Hospitality Kitchen
- Music Centre
- Drama Space
- Financial Hub



## Parent Involvement OUR MERCY FAMILY

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When students enrol at Mercy Catholic College, the whole family is welcomed to the community as we work in partnership with parents and carers to provide a caring and nurturing environment which enhances student development. Parents and carers offer strong leadership and support in many aspects of College life including:

### **Parents and Friends Association**

This important group facilitates educational, fundraising and social events for the College community. Meetings provide an opportunity for parent contribution to decision making and input is always welcome.

### **Sport**

Students are involved in a large variety of sports, representing the school in weekend competitions in such sports as netball, touch, basketball, soccer, cricket, hockey, tennis and swimming. Parents take on the roles of convenors, coaches and managers.

*“Shaping the future by pursuing excellence  
and creating boundless opportunities”*







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