



A RICH HISTORY. A LASTING FUTURE.



Mercedes College

ASPIRE EXCEL LEAD





## WELCOME...

We welcome you all with warmth and hospitality in the hope that we can work together to provide the very best holistic education for young women in Western Australia.

We believe that everyone involved in College life has something to offer, from a Year 7 student in her first week, to our many education and community partners.

Our experienced and dedicated staff, from teachers and administrators to members of leadership councils, will make themselves available to answer your questions and listen to your opinions and suggestions.

## ...TO THE ONLY GIRLS' SCHOOL IN THE CITY

Mercedes College is the only girls' school located within the Perth CBD providing access by car, rail or even bicycle from most of the city's suburbs. This central location makes it easy for students to interact with the dynamics of a modern city.

The College is only a short walk from the beautiful Swan River and nearby parks and open spaces that provide the perfect settings for student and community events.

Our students come from as far south as Rockingham and as far north as Joondalup, but all are happy to spend their days at WA's oldest secondary school.

COMPASSION • EXCELLENCE • JUSTICE • INTEGRITY • SERVICE



## OUR VISION

### A s p i r e • E x c e l • L e a d

Mercedes College offers young women an outstanding Catholic education based on the Mercy values of compassion, justice, excellence, integrity and service. We provide an accessible education for girls from a diversity of cultures and backgrounds, equipping them to be active citizens. Our students are encouraged to develop a positive self-image reflecting self-awareness, courage and resilience, as well as caring for others, the community and the environment. Young Mercedes have a love for life, belief in themselves and confidence in their abilities.

Inspired by the practical example of Catherine McAuley, our lives are centred in God. We strive to be living proof of social consciousness. We are altruistic, focused on recognising the needs of others and addressing them. We challenge our students to walk in the footsteps of Jesus by giving back to the community and continuing to live Mercy values all their lives.

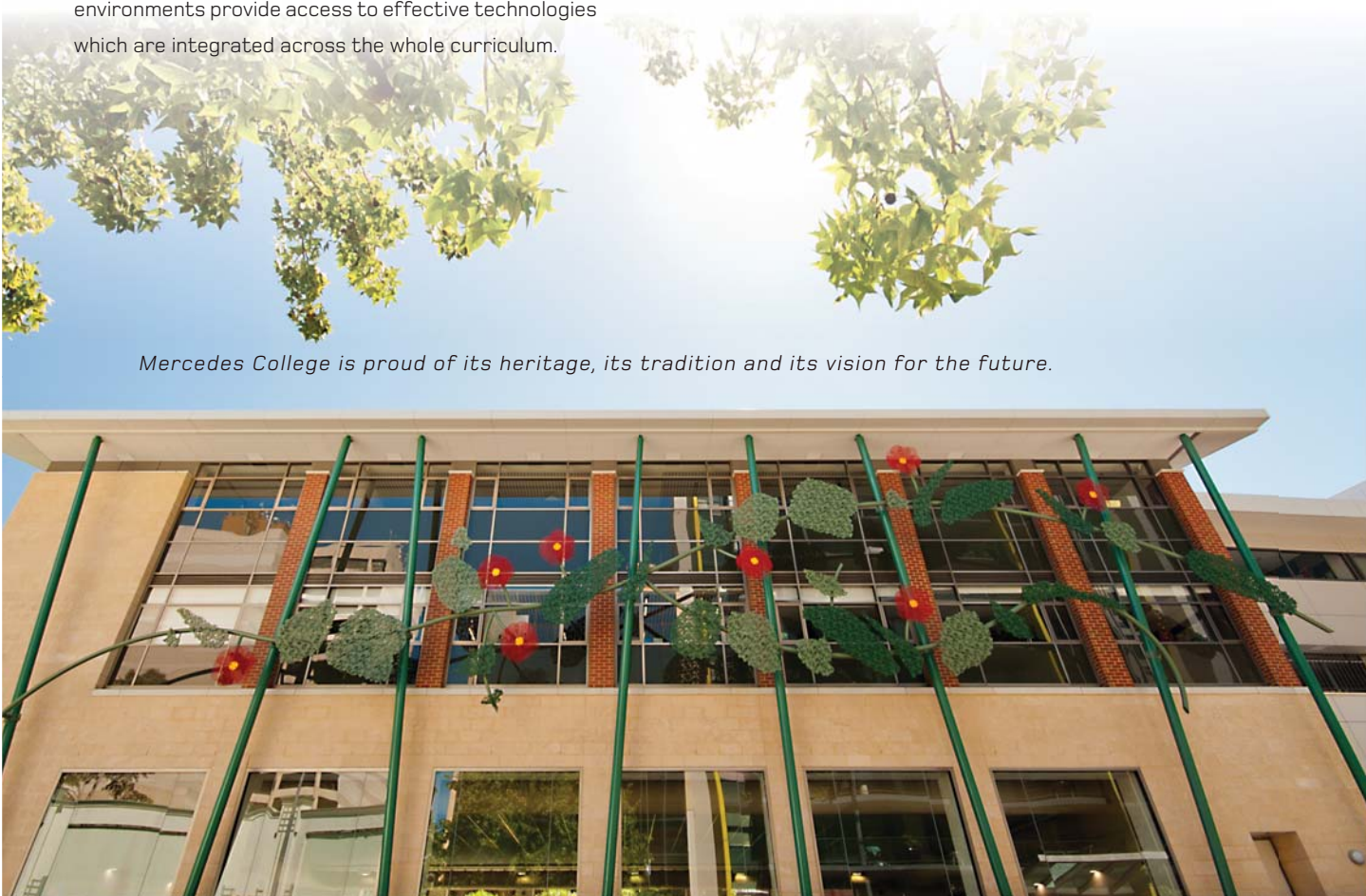
We seek to be innovators in girls' education. Our dedicated staff strive for high standards in learning and teaching through their sharing of best practice, ideas and resources. We seek out professional learning that will maintain excellence and a high degree of expertise in our teaching areas. Our learning environments provide access to effective technologies which are integrated across the whole curriculum.

We aim for excellence and the highest educational outcomes within a collaborative, nurturing learning environment. Taking responsible risks is encouraged, success is rewarded and disappointment acknowledged. Our students are self-directed, collaborative critical thinkers who take ownership of their educational journey and persevere to achieve their personal best. The focus is on continuous learning that will provide the spiritual, social, physical and emotional development needed to achieve personal fulfilment.

Education is seen as a shared responsibility between the family and the College. A high level of mutual respect, support and communication between parents and staff plays an essential role in the education of all our students. Involvement of parents in a variety of College activities is actively promoted enhancing the richness of the learning experience of the students.

We are proud of our students, who we empower to assume roles in their lives in which they can develop their strengths and feel fulfilled. Our vision is for Mercedes students to become women with a strong sense of who they are and of the influence they can have in the world beyond Mercedes.

*Mercedes College is proud of its heritage, its tradition and its vision for the future.*







### FROM LITTLE THINGS...

On 2 February 1846, the first school in Australia to be founded by a religious congregation, and Western Australia's first permanent school, opened its doors to just one student. Fortunately, by the end of the week, the Sisters of Mercy had encouraged another five students to attend the school and, by the end of the year, there were one hundred.

Mercedes College, as it is known today, was established by seven pioneer Mercy women under the leadership of Ursula Frayne. The Sisters were inspired by their founder, Sister Catherine McAuley who proclaimed the Gospel by what she said and how she lived. They were told that in the fledgling Swan River Colony, there were "thousands of children awaiting the bread of instruction."

Something of an exaggeration maybe, but the Sisters took up the task of providing spiritual, practical and educational services to local children.

The school began life in a small cottage and, despite moving to various buildings and expanding dramatically, still stands on its original site opposite St Mary's Cathedral in what has now become the heritage precinct of Perth's CBD.

Despite initial hardship, the College flourished. From the original foundation in Victoria Square, the Sisters undertook the establishment of Mercy schools throughout the state and beyond.





### ...BIG THINGS GROW.

Today, Mercedes College upholds the Mercy traditions and the values of compassion, justice, excellence, integrity and service which form a steadfast foundation for a long and successful future for its young women.

With nearly a thousand students, the College offers young women in Year 7 to 12 an outstanding Catholic education.

A major building and renovation program has provided the College with exciting new learning and sports facilities, a refurbished canteen, computer labs and a Confucius Classroom, dedicated to the teaching of Mandarin.



## OUR MISSION

To make Mercedes College a faith community and a centre of learning which enables young women to continue the Catholic tradition of our founder, Catherine McAuley, by walking the same path as Jesus and making a difference in their own lives and others' lives.

## OUR VALUES

### Compassion

We are a caring community. Like Christ we walk with others in empathy, respond with mercy, and are prepared to give each other another chance.

### Excellence

We strive to excel at all times, gaining strength from each other and following in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley with courage and conviction.

### Justice

We uphold the rights of the individual, are accepting of difference and treat all people with fairness and respect.

### Integrity

We act with commitment and honesty, holding steadfast to our principles in all that we do.

### Service

We give of ourselves, time and gifts, to serve others. We are present, helpful and respectful to those in need without expecting anything in return.

## GOVERNANCE

On 12 December 2011, Sisters of Mercy from congregations across Australia and regions of Papua New Guinea, joined together to form the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. Today, Mercedes College comes under the governance of Mercy Education Limited, the delegated authority responsible for operating Mercy schools in Australia.



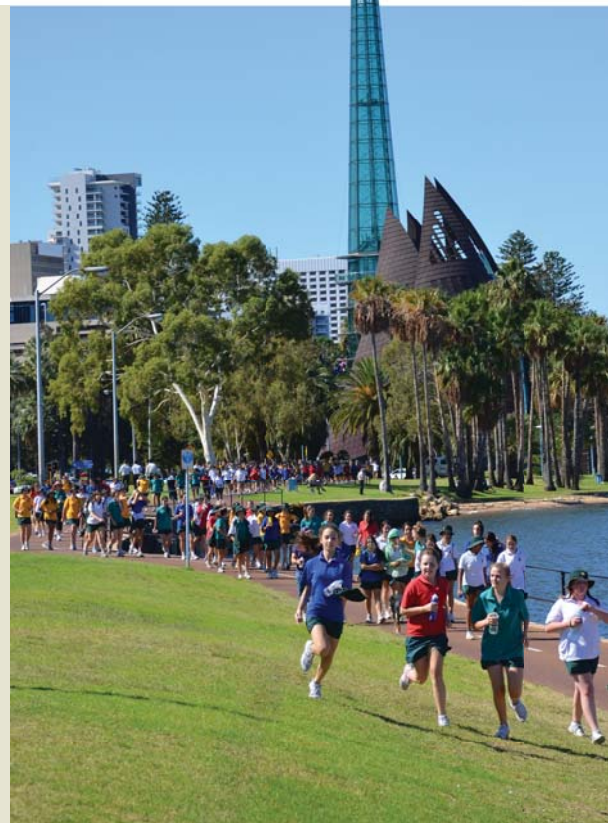




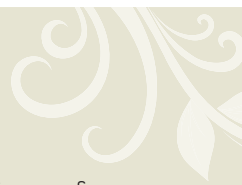
## COMMUNITY

A sense of community is strong at Mercedes College. Opportunities are available so that students, staff, parents and the wider community can develop strong relationships. Students actively engage in a comprehensive range of events in the city through connections developed in a variety of pathways. Throughout the year families enjoy many events organised with the support of the Parents and Friends' Association and a vibrant parent group community.

With the College's rich history, many family links have been established. For students this association is life-long and continues from generation to generation. The Victoria Square Alumni provides an important link for former students wishing to reconnect.







## CAMPUS FACILITIES

Sitting on a 2.4 hectare site in the heart of one of Australia's most dynamic and modern cities, Mercedes College provides students with the very latest facilities.

The Serisier Learning Centre provides leading edge science laboratories and general purpose classrooms above a renovated, 25 metre 8-lane indoor heated pool with views to the beautiful gardens and St Mary's Cathedral.

The Coady Sports Centre is a sports enthusiasts dream with its impressive multi-purpose sports hall and fitness centre, complete with strength training equipment.

Learning is enhanced across the campus with technology in media labs, business centres and video conferencing facilities. Students connect via online learning anytime, anywhere.





Add to this a number of dedicated learning areas; a unique Confucius Classroom devoted to the teaching of Mandarin, a Performing Arts Centre, a media centre with television and film editing suites and its own radio studio, music facilities, and a life-skills centre for Inclusive Education students, and you'll realise that the College has just about everything a young student can imagine.

Despite the constraints of an inner city site, an outdoor sports field caters for a variety of sporting activities.

A fully equipped Wellness Centre managed by registered nurses ensures the wellbeing of students and staff is catered for.

But these are only physical features. There is so much more on offer – both inside and outside the College – in terms of dynamic and potentially life-changing educational experiences.





## THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

From the very first day at Mercedes College, our young women begin a life-long journey as learners who will discover and explore their individual spiritual, intellectual, social and physical needs and how best to realise them. There are many learning pathways available and our staff members are experienced in recognising each student's potential, providing guidance and encouragement every step of the way. Mercedes College is concerned with the wholeness, quality of life and the discovery of a meaningful vocation for each young woman.

The College encompasses the three learning communities of Years 7 and 8, Years 9 and 10 and Years 11 and 12. The academic and intellectual abilities of students in each community are recognised and nurtured. The Australian Curriculum provides the framework for all teaching programs and teachers use their pedagogy to drive the technology. Students bring their iPads with a curated set of apps to create, investigate and communicate high quality problem solving activities.

Mercedes College is first and foremost a Catholic school. All students, regardless of religious background, join in the Religious Education program which is designed not only to promote the knowledge and understanding of the Christian message, but also to meet the needs of young people as they embrace the religious challenges of life in the twenty-first century.

### *OUR CURRICULUM AIMS TO:*

- Develop the whole person within a caring and supportive Christian Catholic environment and witness to the values and teaching of the gospel.
- Promote excellence and the highest educational outcomes within a non-threatening learning environment.
- Guide students to be self-directed critical thinkers who take ownership of their educational journey and persevere to achieve their personal best.
- Graduate women with a sense of who they are and of the influence they can have in the world.







#### *ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM (ALP)*

ALP from Years 7 to 9 caters for a select group of highly capable students, and is a further example of learning at the College meeting the diverse range of students' needs.

#### *INCLUSIVE EDUCATION*

A dynamic Inclusive Education team provides specialist programs to support students across a wide range of academic abilities including students who have learning difficulties, and those with learning disabilities.

#### *ELECTIVES*

A variety of elective courses are offered every year to meet the changing and demanding needs of society. Students are able to choose courses that best suit their talents, interests and skills.

#### *VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING*

Vocational Education and Training opportunities are offered in a range of learning areas, from Certificate I to Certificate III courses, catering for all student ability levels. Workplace Learning is also offered to students in Years 11 and 12. Students work for one day each week in a self-selected industry placement and gain accreditation towards their graduation.

#### *GUIDANCE*

Students have access to psychologists and a Careers Co-ordinator with whom they can meet to discuss future needs and opportunities.





## MINISTRY

Mercedes College plays host to a truly diverse number of social, religious, pastoral and community-based projects all of which are aimed at providing opportunities for students to develop compassionate and meaningful attitudes to the world around them.

Ministry at the College is a collaborative partnership between students, staff, parents, the Sisters of Mercy and the Cathedral parish. Members of the College community are encouraged to undertake specific ministries within the church and the College to proclaim the gospel and witness to Christ.

The faith life and spirituality of students, staff and parents are fostered through prayer, liturgical celebrations and theological reflection. Students serve as special ministers, altar servers and liturgical singers and dancers. Fundraising and outreach for Mercy ministries and Catholic agencies are supported generously. Retreat programs, social justice campaigns and service initiatives attract students eager to enact College values. Service is a key involvement for staff and students alike with a strong emphasis on reflective practice and Mercy in action.

The College's Mercy Service Learning program is a unique learning experience encouraging active

citizenship in the community. Students are provided with opportunities to develop an understanding of their responsibility to others in the Mercy tradition, through fundraising events, the preparation and distribution of food to the disadvantaged, awareness raising activities and environmental programs. The Years 10 and 11 program is an Endorsed Unit with the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

Helping with a variety of soup runs, meeting the homeless who sleep in our city's doorways, and serving food at shelters are just a few of the activities in which selected Year 11 students participate as part of the Poverty Immersion Program. The Face2faith video conference program, run through the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, connects our students with students from around the world in discussion of contemporary issues from their faith perspective. These enriching face-to-face interactions create opportunities for students to build relationships and learn more about themselves and others.

Ministry also encourages students to become responsible adults who evaluate the world in light of their Christian faith. It nurtures spiritual growth through the provision of opportunities for worship, prayer, service and study in the development of a life-giving faith community.





## PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care program at Mercedes College is a vitally important part of the students' overall education. This carefully structured program aims to create a caring community based on mutual respect, positive self-image, self-awareness and a duty of care to individuals, families, the broader community and the environment.

As a Positive Education school, the program is concerned with maximising learning and personal growth, while developing values, attitudes, skills and practices that will forever be of benefit in the future ensuring all students flourish.

Students are divided into homerooms with dedicated homeroom teachers who will be the primary carers and the most important people in the school life of each student.

Students are allocated to one of six Houses - Cooper, Frayne, McAuley, McDonald, Serisier and Wright - which recall significant women of the Sisters of Mercy.

The House system is one of the College's great strengths and contributes to the spirit of our College. Older students learn to care for, encourage and support younger students in a wide variety of House activities in which all students are invited to participate. The House system is student centred and provides many leadership opportunities.



### LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Through a long tradition of leadership formation students are encouraged to become creative and confident future leaders with a strong sense of social responsibility.

- ▶ The Prefect Council is elected by peers and College staff. It offers Year 12 Prefects and Deputy Prefects a leadership framework that encourages a collaborative model of formation and service.
- ▶ Student Representative Council members are elected by their peers for a one year term, and represent their homeroom and year group. Meeting with the Principal, Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl, they discuss ways in which they can enhance student life.
- ▶ The House System and co-curricular activities provide many opportunities for all students to take on leadership roles, organising and co-ordinating events.
- ▶ Year 10 Peer Mentors work with Year 7 students throughout the year, running formal and informal activities.
- ▶ Special Leadership Formation provides students at various year levels with programs to enhance leadership skills. These include the Young Mercies (Year 11 and 12), Seeds of Justice (Year 10), Just Leadership (Year 9) and Mini Mercies (Year 7 and 8). Opportunities may include travel for the LEAP program in Los Angeles, the Dublin Pilgrimage, and the Mercy Secondary Schools' Association Conference.

All of these programs give students the chance to be positive role models and mentors to the student body.

### SUPPORT:

The needs of students' physical and mental wellbeing is met by psychologists and registered nurses. Experienced practitioners respond with care to the needs of students through practical assistance and counselling.





## CO-CURRICULAR

An exciting range of activities form an important part of the co-curricular life of the College. Students develop skills and interests in many varied fields and the activities contribute to the broad educational experience offered by Mercedes College.

SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES ON OFFER ARE:

- Arts • Language & Sporting Tours
- Book Club • Chess Club
- Future Problem Solving
- Culture in the City Club
- Da Vinci Competition
- Debating • Drama
- Fremantle Literature Group
- ICUMC Film Club • Liturgical Dance
- Making Mercedes Greener (Environmental group)
- MCfm Radio Club • Mock Law
- Music Ensembles and Choirs
- Musical Production
- Opti Minds
- Philosophy Club
- Photography Club
- Public Speaking
- Speech • Sport
- Writers' Club
- Young Mercies





If you choose to send your daughter to Mercedes College, be assured she will be encouraged to discover the world around her in as many ways as possible.

### AFFORDABLE EDUCATION

Many parents consider the cost of private education to be an expensive but necessary part of the family budget. As you seek the ideal educational environment for your daughter, you will undoubtedly make comparisons on a number of fronts, one of which will almost certainly be fees.

Mercedes College has long held the belief that it represents value for money in terms of overall tuition fees and charges for additional courses, excursions and activities. A sound education is an investment in the future. The returns are immeasurable. At Mercedes College, we believe your daughter will receive more than she ever imagined for less than you thought possible.



For more information visit our website at [www.mercedes.wa.edu.au](http://www.mercedes.wa.edu.au)







*"Perfection does not consist of doing extraordinary actions, but in performing extraordinarily well the ordinary actions of the day."*

Venerable Mother Sister Catherine McAuley 1778-1841  
*Founder of the Sisters of Mercy*



Mercedes College



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