

# A College for Every Girl

*in the heart of your city*



Mercedes College

ASPIRE EXCEL LEAD



# Empowering Every Girl...

**Empowering every girl to develop her strengths and a sense of the influence she can have beyond school life, is at the heart of all we do at Mercedes College.**

From your very first day, you will be warmly welcomed into our community and inspired to have a love for life, belief in yourself and confidence in your own abilities.

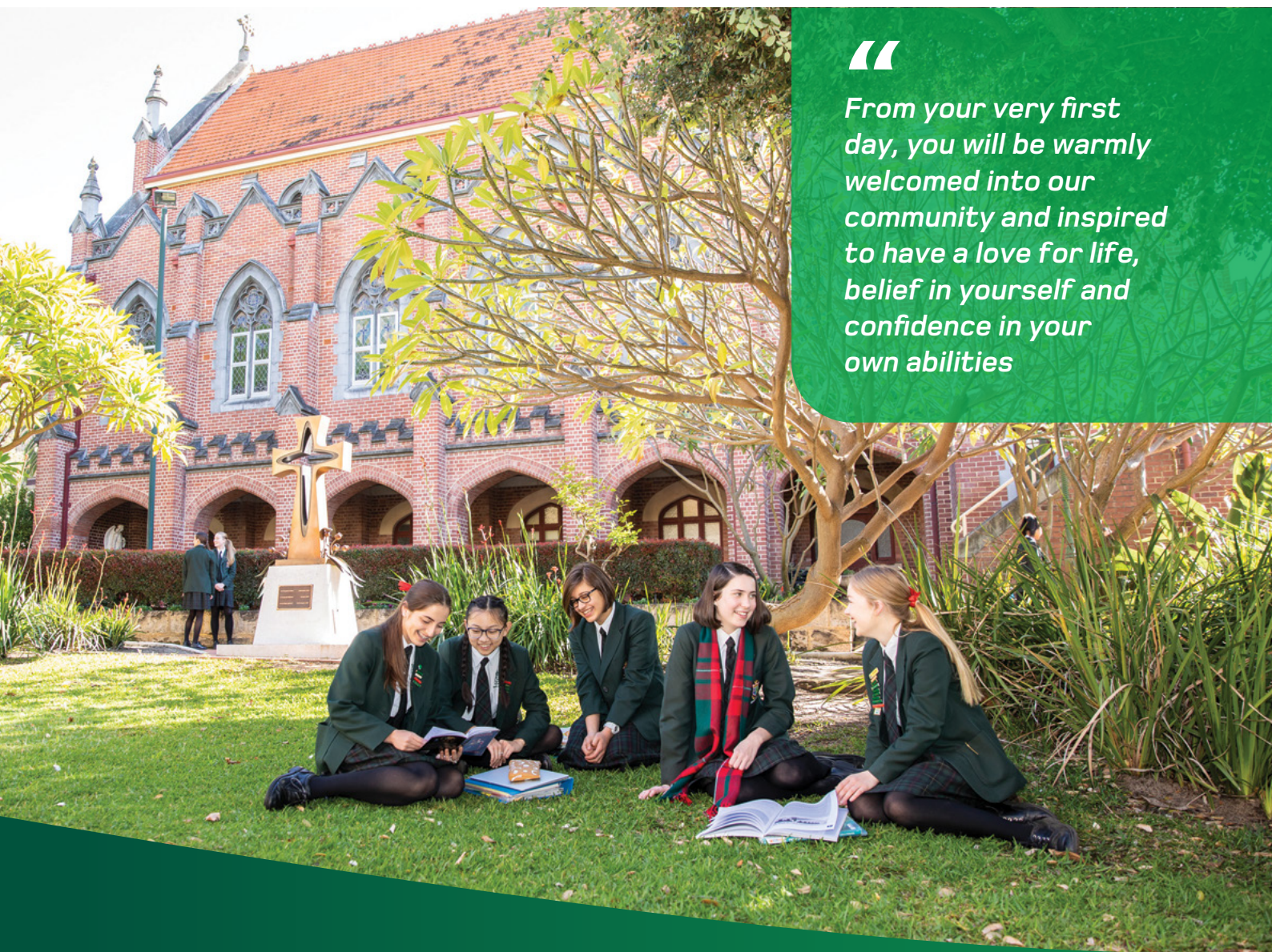
Enjoying our state-of-the-art facilities, you will be encouraged to learn, to be a critical thinker, to be courageous and resilient, as well as to care for others, the community and our planet.

You will thrive on the energy provided by the dynamic, modern environment of our central location in the vibrant city of Perth, with nearby parks and open spaces of the majestic Swan River, just a short walk away.

But more importantly, you will be gaining the benefits of receiving the very best education for girls available in Western Australia, in the first permanent school established by a religious congregation in Australia.

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## Vision

### Aspire • Excel • Lead

**At Mercedes you will be inspired by the practical example of Catherine McAuley and our Mercy values of compassion, justice, excellence, integrity and service. You will discover how these values will motivate you throughout College life and beyond.**

You will become friends with girls from many different cultures and backgrounds, working together as active members of our community with a social awareness focused on recognising and responding to the needs of others and our world.

Education is seen as a shared responsibility between us all with mutual respect and communication playing essential roles. You will be encouraged to take ownership of your journey and to aspire to achieve your personal best. You will aim for excellence and to achieve your personal best, within a collaborative, nurturing, learning environment.

Supporting you all the way are education innovators. Our dedicated teachers maintain exceptional standards in learning and teaching through the sharing of best practice and resources. They seek out professional learning opportunities that ensure expertise in every area of our curriculum. You will also benefit from the employment and integration of leading technologies across our entire framework. Learning is enhanced across the campus with technology in media labs, business centres and video conferencing facilities. Students connect via online learning anytime, anywhere.

We strive to create a life-long love of learning in you because we believe it will provide you with the spiritual, social, physical and emotional development you need to feel personally fulfilled in life.





## 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 in making a difference in their own and others' lives.

## 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.

## Values

**COMPASSION:** We are a caring community. 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 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.



# In the Heart of Your City...

**In the Heart of your City on the 2nd February 1846 the Sisters of Mercy founded the first school in Australia run by a religious congregation, and Western Australia's first permanent school. The Sisters expected over 4000 students, however only one student arrived that first morning. By the end of 1846 the numbers had grown to over 100 students.**

Mercedes College, as it is known today, was established by six pioneer Mercy women under the leadership of Sister Ursula Frayne. The Sisters were inspired by their founder, Sister Catherine McAuley who devoted her life to the relief and education of the poor in Ireland. They were told in the fledgling Swan River Colony, there were "thousands of children awaiting the bread of instruction."

Although this was not quite true, from a small cottage the Sisters began to provide spiritual, practical and educational services for the local children. Over the years there have been moves to various buildings and dramatic expansions, but our College still stands on its original site opposite St Mary's Cathedral in what has now become the heritage precinct of your city.

Despite initial hardships, the College flourished and from the original foundation in Victoria

Square, the Sisters have established Mercy schools throughout the state and beyond. We are part of this wonderful network of Colleges across Australia and around the world.

Today, Mercedes comprises a 2.4-hectare site in the heart of your city and while our historical buildings link us to our rich history, our modern facilities will help equip you for the future, offering more than you can imagine.

Discover the wonders of the world in our leading-edge science laboratories or take a swim in our renovated, 25-metre 8-lane indoor heated pool with views to the beautiful gardens and St Mary's Cathedral.

Work out with strength training equipment or play sport in our impressive multi-purpose Coady Sports Centre and Fitness Centre.

Unearth your talents as you lead a STEM challenge, shine on stage in the school musical, direct a film or run a Facebook Live event from our Media Department.

And to ensure your absolute wellbeing any time, are our caring Wellness Centre staff.





# Your Heart and Spirit...

**Your heart and spirit will be enriched at Mercedes by the many social, religious, pastoral and community-based projects providing opportunities to develop compassionate and meaningful attitudes to the world around you. We nurture spiritual growth through worship, prayer, service and study in a life-giving faith community.**

In partnership with your teachers, family, the Sisters of Mercy and the Parish community you will be encouraged to participate in activities such as liturgical singing, theological reflection and the opportunity to serve as a special minister or altar server.

You will live Mercy in action through the many fundraising and Mercy outreach programs and other social services organisations, working on events, the preparation of food to the disadvantaged, awareness raising activities and environmental programs.

Service is one of our driving values, involving a strong emphasis on retreat programs, social justice campaigns and reflective practice throughout your College life. These enriching face-to-face interactions create wonderful opportunities for you to build relationships and learn more about yourself and others.







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In Years 10 and 11 you will have the opportunity to participate in the Mercy Service program encouraging you to be an active member in the community giving you an understanding of your responsibility to others in the Mercy tradition. The program is an Endorsed Unit with the School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

Assisting with the preparation and distribution of food for the Big Issue Street Soccer program, serving food at shelters and working with service providers are just a few of the activities you will engage in through the Poverty Immersion program.



# Your Dreams and Possibilities...

**Your dreams and possibilities will start to come alive from your very first day at Mercedes when you will begin a life-long journey as a learner who will discover and explore your individual spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical needs and how best to realise them.**

You will be encouraged and supported in your quest for personal excellence and be recognised and rewarded for your efforts.

There are many educational pathways available to you and our staff members are experienced in recognising potential, providing guidance and encouragement every step of the way. You will have a busy and diverse student life both in and out of the College, being immersed into many aspects of our city life, with 'real life' learning opportunities in business and the community right on our doorstep.

We are all about the wholeness, quality of life and the discovery of a meaningful vocation for you and every girl at Mercedes. We nurture your academic and intellectual abilities utilising the Australian Curriculum Framework for all our teaching programs. Each day of school you will bring your iPad loaded 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. No matter what your religious background, you will join our inspiring Religious Education program to not only gain a greater understanding of the Christian message, but also to learn more

about how to embrace the cultural challenges of life in the twenty-first century.

Our curriculum is Christ-centred and based on Gospel values, guiding you to be a self-directed, critical thinker and responsible risk-taker who will form positive attitudes and relationships, and who will be 'counter cultural' in living your life for others. We are future focused and inclusive, offering you and every girl a range of opportunities in the areas of academic endeavour, service, arts, sports and technology, to develop knowledge and skills to equip you to navigate and prosper in the modern world.

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## Academic Challenge & Extension

Based on your Year 7 results and achievements, you may be selected to join the ACE program which has been designed to further develop highly capable students in the learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences in Years 7 to 10. Studies in all ACE classes follow the mainstream curriculum but with a deeper and broader focus through a range of academic competitions and extension activities as well as participating in excursions, Incursions, and guest presentations.

## Inclusive Education

Studying in Inclusive Education means you will receive specialised programs designed by a dynamic Inclusive Education team, in addition to accessing a wide range of mainstream classes and activities, to ensure you are challenged and supported in achieving your personal best. If you have learning difficulties or a learning disability, you will be encouraged all the way in your individual endeavours and progress.

## Electives

A great aspect of the Mercedes College curriculum, is the ability for you to be able to choose courses that best suit your talents, interests and skills. An exciting variety of elective subjects are offered every year to meet the changing and challenging needs of our world.

## Vocational Education and Training

A comprehensive vocational education program assists you to identify your strengths and interests and to create pathways for future development. In Year 11 and 12 you will also work for one day each week in an industry of your choice and gain accreditation towards your graduation.

## Guidance

You will benefit from having access to our experienced Counsellors and a Career Co-ordinator, with whom you can meet to discuss and explore future possibilities. Other career development activities include guest speakers and mentor events, career counselling and course selection interviews, workplace learning, and certificate course options.



# Your Guidance and Support...

**Your guidance and support are vitally important to us. We want you and every girl to flourish. At Mercedes you will become part of a nurturing community based on mutual respect, positive self-image, self-awareness and a care for individuals, families, the broader community and the environment.**

You will have your own homeroom with a dedicated homeroom teacher who will be your primary support and the most important relationship in your school life.

You will also be joining one of six Houses in our House system. These are named after significant women of the Sisters of Mercy – Cooper, Frayne, McAuley, McDonald, Serisier and Wright. Being a member of a House contributes to the spirit of our College. Older students will care for, encourage and support you in a wide variety of House activities in which everyone is invited to participate. In turn you will do the same one day for new girls when they join our College.

There are also many leadership opportunities throughout your school life to assist you to become a creative and confident future leader with a strong sense of social responsibility.

These programs allow you to be a positive role model and mentor to other students.

## Leadership Opportunities

- When you are in Year 12 you may be elected by students and College staff to the Prefect Council which offers Prefects and Deputy Prefects a leadership framework that encourages a collaborative model of formation and service.
- You could be elected by other students to be a member of the Student Representative Council for a one year term and represent your homeroom and year group. Meeting with the Principal, Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl, you discuss ways in which you can enhance student life.
- The House System and co-curricular activities provide many opportunities for you to take on leadership roles, organising and co-ordinating events.
- Year 10 Peer Mentors work with you throughout the year, running formal and informal activities.
- Mercedes offers special leadership formation programs to enhance your leadership skills at every year level. These include the Young Mercies (Year 11 and 12), and Mini Mercies (Year 7 and 8). There's also the chance for travel to the LEAP program in Los Angeles, the Dublin Pilgrimage, and the Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools' Association Conference.







## Support

We have highly experienced psychologists and a registered nurse will respond with care to your physical and mental wellbeing, through practical assistance and counselling.

## Transition Week

We want to help make the transition from primary school to secondary school as smooth as possible for you by beginning your first week with a range of activities designed to master skills such as – how to use your locker and its combination lock, how to pack a bag, how to read a timetable and to get to classes by the most efficient route. This is also a time for your Peer Mentor to get to know you and that relationship will grow stronger throughout the year. There are many exciting activities, but a highlight of the week is a camp full of fun team-building activities and an overnight stay in the Swan Valley.

## The Rite Journey

Year 9 can be a challenging time for all and we are here to support you by providing the tools to help you make mature decisions, and the opportunities to learn more about yourself and the kind of adult you want to be.

The Rite Journey program allows you to experience rites of passage and valuable life lessons under the guidance of your mentor teachers and other important adults in your life, to inspire you to become an empowered woman of Mercy at school and beyond.









# Your Talents and Creativity...

**Your talents and creativity will be enlivened through an exciting range of activities on offer for you to develop skills and new interests. A broad range of co-curricular activities facilitate the development of skills and interests across a variety of pursuits. You will be able to actively participate in Academic, Cultural, Service and Sport activities to broaden your experiences and allow you to shine..**

## Service

Service is an essential part of a student's life at the College. You will be involved in a range of fun and rewarding service activities as part of the Mercy charism established by Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy.

## Academic

Activities including Amnesty, Book Clubs, Da Vinci Decathlon, Debating, IT Angels, Mock Law and Philosophy are some of the opportunities for extension and support, challenging you to be a life-long learner who collaborates with others in the pursuit of a common goal.

## Arts & Culture

If you have a passion for the arts and culture, you will love our Drama, Media, Music, Speech, Visual Arts and Language pursuits. The House Arts Cup,

provides our Arts students with opportunities to compete amongst their peers in a nurturing, friendly environment. The school musicals, which have been the recipient of the Catholic Performing Arts Festival – Best Secondary Musical in 2017 and 2018, offer our Performing Arts students an outstanding opportunity to showcase their talents in a professional, public theatre. Our music students continue to shine in their fields at the various festivals both here in Australia and abroad.

As a media student, you will have access to state-of-the-art facilities and be able to participate in innovative, leadership programs to hone your skills. You may even be one of the young Mercedes women who are fortunate to receive a Bond University media scholarship.

## Sport

To build on the College's community spirit, you will have the opportunity to participate in interschool, intra-school and interstate sporting pursuits challenging you to strive for your personal best. There are a wide range of sports and fitness activities to promote your health and wellbeing including ACC programs in AFLW, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Hockey, Netball, Soccer, Swimming, Triathlon, Volleyball, the Year 7 & 8 Lightning Carnivals, and the Year 7 Super Series.





# Your New Community...

When you enrol at Mercedes, you're not just joining a new school but becoming part of a whole new community. There are so many opportunities for you, your teachers and family to develop strong relationships by enjoying the city events we participate in throughout the year, as well as those organised with the support of our Parents and Friends' Association.

When you graduate from Mercedes, you will be welcomed into The Victoria Square Alumni, giving you the opportunity to continue a lifelong connection with the College and all the friends you have made during your time here. With our rich history, some families have past students going back generations and friendships that have been enjoyed for decades.

# Your Opportunity...

Joining Mercedes College is an investment in the future that will deliver immeasurable returns. We are committed to providing a first class private education with tuition fees and costs for additional courses, excursions and activities, that are value for money. We strive to ensure every girl receives more than she ever imagined for less than you thought possible.



**For more information about how you can be a part of this school in the heart of your city, give us a call on 93231323 or visit our website at [www.mercedes.wa.edu.au](http://www.mercedes.wa.edu.au)**









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