

JUNIOR YEARS HANDBOOK



**MELBOURNE
GIRLS GRAMMAR**
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL





OUR VISION

A LEADING GIRLS' SCHOOL FOR OVER 125 YEARS

VISION

Melbourne Girls Grammar aspires to develop ethical women of action. Through a focus on learning, research and innovation we will be recognised by our own community, the national and international community as a leading school in girls' education.

MISSION

In the pursuit of our vision, Melbourne Girls Grammar is committed to the provision of an exceptional education for girls, with an emphasis on strong Christian values, high expectations, creativity and academic challenge.

Within a supportive and optimistic culture we provide opportunities for students to discover their passions and build their capacities for action and influence within their many life contexts.

VALUES

In support of our mission, Melbourne Girls Grammar values are:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Courage
- Self-discipline

VISIT MELBOURNE GIRLS GRAMMAR

For further information or to request a tour of the Junior Years facilities, please contact the Melbourne Girls Grammar Enrolments Office on 03 9862 9200 or enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

To educate is to make an intervention into the lives of others. When we intervene, we do so with certain assumptions about the value of what we are doing and why. Building students' capacity for future readiness is a moral-ethical learning endeavour and one that cannot be left to chance.

To achieve this, Melbourne Girls Grammar promotes a progressive, contemporary community of practice committed to providing personalised high quality curriculum, wellbeing and co-curricular programs that enable lifelong learning for every student. We are future focused and committed to inspiring our Grammarians and equipping them with the values, knowledge and skills to be ready to make their mark on the world.

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your family to Melbourne Girls Grammar.

Dr Toni Meath
Principal





JUNIOR YEARS

OUR PHILOSOPHY

In the Junior Years we want to inspire our girls to be curious, to extend their interest in the world around them, and to confidently encounter new situations. Our girls are encouraged to embrace learning opportunities that stretch them to think, collaborate and create.

The Junior Years Program integrates academic learning with social development. Positive relationships and personal responsibility are the foundations for healthy human development. Our girls experience a sense of community anchored on shared values.

Learning begins with strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, but to develop the whole person this must be extended through diverse and rich curriculum. Specialist teachers provide creative and enriching learning experiences in Music, The Arts, Italian, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Physical Education and Information Literacy. Outside, the girls explore, play, and imagine.







MORRIS HALL

OUR JUNIOR YEARS CAMPUS



Within the leafy surrounds of South Yarra, our Morris Hall campus is home for our Prep – Year 4 girls.

The environment is architecturally designed to create a place of enchantment that promotes wonder, possibility and challenge for students of the 21st century. It is a beautiful and welcoming place for our girls and their families.

Extending the immediate experience at Morris Hall is the outstanding landscape of the city of Melbourne. Museums, galleries, parks, and theatres are within walking distance or a short tram ride. We believe that an education for life takes our girls exploring well beyond their learning studios.







LEARNING STUDIOS

Our learning studios are inspired by the commitment we have to make learning visible. Flexible spaces enable our girls to collaborate and create, to extend what is possible in the flow of a day. Each of our studios promote a sense of community and belonging.

Learning studios are designed to take advantage of natural light, provide comfortable gathering spaces, support personalised learning, and integrate a range of learning technologies.

Our girls share these beautiful, light filled spaces with a team of teachers who are all dedicated to ensure that they have everything they need to be inspired to achieve amazing things. The environment at Morris Hall supports and promotes a deep respect for each other and for our environment.







KNOWING OUR GIRLS

At the heart of our Junior Years Program is a commitment to the development of the whole child. We respect and foster the diverse talents and interests of our girls.

Teachers and support staff are focused on providing personalised experiences of learning, and adjustments are made when girls require greater support or extension. We believe in listening to our girls, responding to their developmental needs, and assisting them to negotiate and navigate challenges, both academic and social. We start and finish with the girls in mind. Programs are designed for high engagement and for the stretch we know our girls aspire to achieve.

The wellbeing of our girls is a shared responsibility for all our staff, and teams work together to ensure that the social and emotional development of our girls is always a focus, both indoors and outdoors.

Within our outdoor zoned learning program, the girls can choose a range of spaces and experiences to explore during times, spent outside the Learning Studio. Our girls may choose to learn and play in the Kitchen Garden, climb and swing on the adventure playground, play soccer on the oval, relax on the Peaceful Patio or immerse themselves in dramatic play in our Imagination Zone. During these times the girls are supervised by a consistent team of educators who are outside with them every day, guiding and nurturing their development as they learn and play together.



Every girl belongs to a House and participates in activities that build community and develops an understanding of the importance of service as a responsible global digital citizen. Assemblies and Chapels are also opportunities for students to lead and collaborate, focused on themes that broaden our girls' understanding of local and global cultures and contexts.

Our Year 4 Leadership Program focuses on developing our girls' emerging understanding of leading with "her heart, her head and her hands". We explore models of service and great female leaders who demonstrate our values, particularly courage and compassion. An exciting aspect of this program is the involvement of our Year 12 Student Leaders.







INNOVATION & CREATIVITY

With a focus on the future, we established a Centre for Innovation and Creativity within our Junior Years campus, a place in which inquiry learning through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) ignites wonder and curiosity. Our girls are offered practical, hands-on experiences to provoke critical thinking and extend their investigation of the world they live and learn in. Guided by expert staff, our girls explore and imagine the seen and unseen worlds that make up the wonder of life on our planet.

Art, Music and Drama make life a wonderful sensory experience. We see expression and performance as enhancing the capacity of our girls to become fully flourishing young people. A diverse range of music ensembles, orchestra and individual tuition is available to engage and extend our developing musicians. The Art Studio supports art making through sculpture, painting, and mixed media, and incorporates Artists in Residence for innovative projects.

Extending the learning experience through online environments is a deliberate and carefully crafted aspect of our Junior Years Program. Personalised use of one-to-one mobile devices gives our girls the scope to access information and to create products that supplement and enrich learning activities.

Our girls make use of a range of mobile devices to access information and to supplement and enrich learning activities.

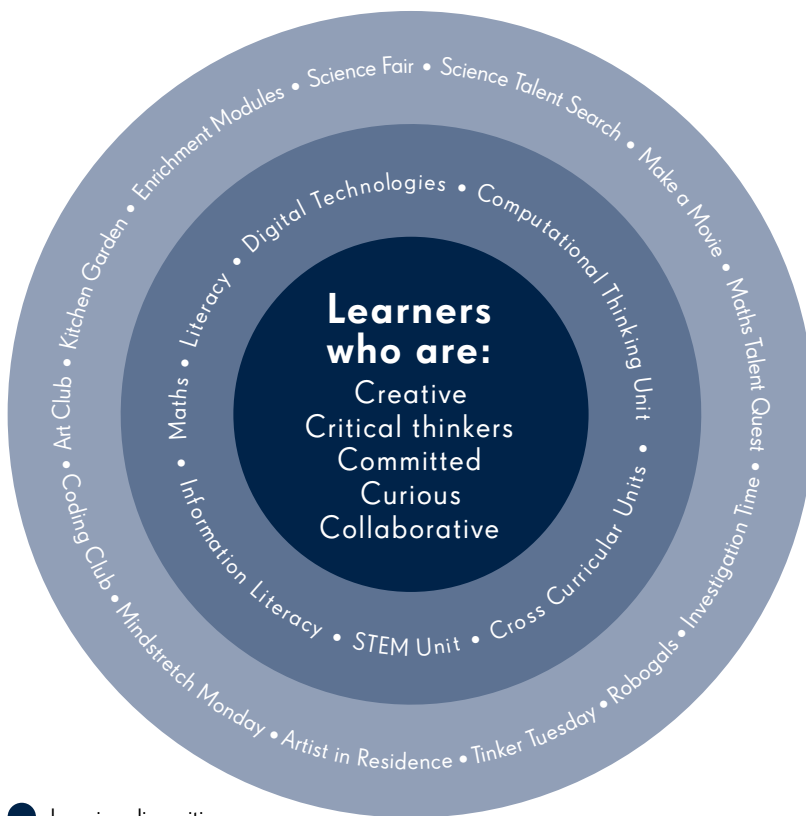




CURRICULUM

AT MORRIS HALL

At Morris Hall the curriculum demonstrates our holistic approach to education. Students are provided with experiences designed to develop important learning dispositions. We want our girls to be creative, critical thinkers, committed, curious and collaborative learners. These dispositions sit at the centre of our program and are surrounded by all of the experiences our girls are offered.



- learning dispositions
- universal programs
- girls making choices to pursue their passions

English

The focus for our Junior Years English Program is to create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed learners. Our aim is to build strong foundational literacy skills that enable students to engage fully with all areas of the curriculum, and to make important conceptual links across their learning. Each student is encouraged to develop her knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. High importance is placed on the development of comprehension skills, vocabulary and writing competence. Our girls are given multiple opportunities to learn to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and the world around them.

Literature classes are an integral part of the English Program at Morris Hall where a passion for reading is nurtured within each individual. We encourage our students to be joyful and voracious readers who engage with a variety of literature that extends beyond their direct experiences. Our well-equipped physical and digital libraries are available at all times for our girls' reading pleasure, and are used daily for recreation, as well as weekly Information Literacy classes.

I-Lit combines the fields of Information Literacy and Literature. It is designed to encourage in students a passion for reading, as well as to empower them to be critical thinkers and independent finders of information. They are taught skills to enable them to navigate the online world with confidence, integrity and safety.

Mathematics

Mathematics is an integral part of our focus in the Junior Years. The individual needs of our girls are carefully planned and catered for within our flexible learning spaces. An emphasis is placed



on encouraging our students to develop a deep understanding of mathematics and to relate mathematics to other subject areas. Our program includes number sense, place value, automatic response concept learning, developing and maintaining skills and learning to apply skills and understanding in a variety of real life contexts.

Students are provided with opportunities for mathematical exploration and problem solving, learning in a variety of groups and settings, guided by an experienced team of teachers and peers. Digital technologies are also used as tools for continuing mathematical explorations and inventions, and are integrated through blended learning and online critical thinking programs.

Cross Curricular Studies

At MGGs we recognise that a contemporary curriculum framework must be responsive to the needs of contemporary girls. Our units of inquiry are taught through overarching themes and are designed to be delivered over a two-year cycle. The themes focus girls' learning at a conceptual level to promote greater depth of understanding.

Year levels Prep – Year 4 study through the same conceptual lens each term, encouraging community connection and collaboration in learning across year levels. The themes have been developed to explore issues of both local and global significance, and offer students rich opportunities to delve into the commonalities of the human experience.

Research tells us that students acquire skills more readily when new learning is presented in an authentic and purposeful way. Through our Cross Curricular units, our girls explore and develop ideas that are relevant to them through a comprehensive guided inquiry program which allows for student

voice, with our core School values of Integrity, Compassion, Courage and Self-discipline embedded throughout all learning.

Alongside our Cross Curricular Program, students are provided further opportunities to pursue personal inquiries into topics of their choice to extend their critical thinking and self directed learning skills. Together, both guided and independent inquiry provide our girls with rich experiences through which to become curious, creative and innovative 21st Century thinkers.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Great value is placed on the importance of a strong foundation in STEM disciplines in the Junior Years. Our aim is to nurture our students' curiosity, exploration and imagination in and across these areas. Research tells us that an enhanced and integrated understanding of STEM disciplines will help our girls to be the entrepreneurs and innovators of the future, actively contributing to the society in which they will live.

Our expert teachers work across Prep – Year 4 providing the girls with learning experiences that incorporate a range of technologies, from telescopes and coding applications, to planting and harvesting in our sustainable gardens. Our students experience the joy of discovery



and nurture their natural curiosity about the world around them. Each girl spends time in the Innovation and Creativity Centre every week, involved in research and discovery for their Units of Inquiry. All girls undertake a specialised coding program where they are exposed to computational thinking and learn to utilise a range of engaging applications and robotic devices over the course of the Junior Years. Through such experiences, our girls have the opportunity to develop their logic, reasoning, and troubleshooting skills as well as vital skills in the area of collaboration and communication.



CURRICULUM

AT MORRIS HALL

Visual Arts

The Junior Years Visual Arts Program includes exploration of a variety of domains and the appreciation of historical and contemporary art and art practise. Emphasis is on the ability to develop a creative concept from its inception, to practise through to completion of refined art. The process of creating and responding are interconnected with all artistic endeavours.

Students will develop and refine their creative aptitude through skill investigation, via explicit and sequential teaching across all domains. Exploration of techniques and ideas and persevering in problem solving will underpin all practical endeavours.

Multiple opportunities are given to our girls to learn to reflect and discuss their own artistic process, techniques and challenges as well as that of other artists.

Performing Arts

A holistic and inclusive approach is taken in Performing Arts at Morris Hall where each student is actively involved in composing, creating and performing. A music specialist works with girls from Prep to Year 4, focusing on a sequential aural-vocal program during classroom music. An instrumental program is offered to students in Years 2 and 3 and is part of their curriculum. Students may choose to study violin or cello. Individual students interested in undertaking instrumental lessons also have the opportunity to do so. Such endeavours serve to encourage self-reliance, time management and confidence within themselves.

Italian

The study of a language other than English has long been considered integral to the comprehensive curriculum offered at MGGS. Our program seeks to broaden students' horizons by helping them to gain a socio-cultural awareness with a view to becoming global citizens and to meeting challenges of an interconnected society in a globalised world. At Morris Hall, an innovative approach supported by music, drama and literature is utilised when our students study Italian. Through their learning experiences, we extend our girls' capabilities to communicate and extend their literacy repertoires and to strengthen their understanding of the language, culture and process of communication. Girls are given opportunities to develop their intercultural capabilities and develop their understanding of diversity and difference.

Physical Performance and Health

PPH in the Junior Years provides opportunities for students to develop the fundamental motor skills and patterns that will prepare them for the cooperative and competitive environments they will come to experience.

MGGS supports a development program in swimming and athletics throughout the Junior Years. Our approach encourages all girls to perform to a high level regardless of the phase of the developmental cycle they are personally experiencing. The use of music to understand rhythm and movement is not limited to dance, but extends from the formal elements of dance expression to games and sport.

By placing the learner at the centre of all programs, and nurturing an understanding of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, MGGS encourages lifelong enjoyment of the physical world.

eLearning

Technology pervades all levels of education at Melbourne Girls Grammar. Laptops, desktops, tablets and other digital devices are embedded in everything we do, through our curriculum, in the design of our learning spaces, computer access and the software and hardware available. Whilst we are dedicated to ensuring that our students have access to the latest technology, we are also steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that online learning happens in developmentally appropriate and purposeful ways. We ensure our program offers a safe, inclusive space where students gain courage to take risks and try new things.

Our Junior Years spaces are designed for the seamless integration of technology, with e-boards, technology rich breakout spaces and specialist teaching areas and access that ensures our girls are able to use technology independently to support their learning experiences.

Our students have 1:1 access to devices from Prep through to Year 4 which ranges from iPads, desktop computers and notebooks. Our technology program focuses on providing students with relevant 21st century skills including creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, curiosity and commitment.





CURRICULUM

ENGLISH

MATHEMATICS

CROSS
CURRICULAR
STUDIES

STEM
(SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING
AND MATHEMATICS)

VISUAL ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS

ITALIAN

PHYSICAL
PERFORMANCE
AND HEALTH

eLEARNING



CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM



When a girl can explore her interests, develop her passions, and discover her talent she becomes fully engaged in the life of her community. We provide a broad co-curricular program that reflects who our girls are and what interests and challenges them.

Swimming, athletics and a range of team sports are available throughout the year. Open and auditioned choral and instrumental programs provide experiences for the full range of abilities and experience.

Our girls are encouraged to sign up for our co-curricular clubs, each one designed to engage and inspire them. These clubs may take place before or after school, or at lunch times. We offer STEM clubs, Art Clubs, Mindfulness groups, Coding and Robotics Clubs and Day Camps, Book Clubs and more. Along with our experiential camps, the girls are offered a rich suite of co-curricular opportunities.









BELONGING

The need to belong is something we all have in common. At MGGGS we believe one's sense of belonging emerges from the connections we make.

In his book, *The Art of Belonging*, social researcher and author Hugh Mackay describes a 'good life' as one lived at the heart of a thriving community, among people we trust and within an environment of mutual respect. At Morris Hall we strive to create a community calendar and schedule of events that enables connections between families and the School to flourish.

Our Parents Association works closely with the School to encourage interaction and connection. Families are invited to actively participate in many and varied ways, from community breakfasts to informal gatherings.

eVI is our online parent portal. All parents have access to a parent homepage for their daughter's year level, as well as access to the School newsletter, the calendar, daily bulletin and the parent directories.



Social Media at MGGGS

We have embraced social media as a valuable tool for communicating and connecting with our community

 Twitter | @MGGGS_SouthYarra

 Facebook | Search "Melbourne Girls Grammar"

 Instagram | melbournegirlsgrammar



THE ARTEMIS PROJECT

NURTURING STRONG, CAPABLE GIRLS



The Artemis Centre, opened in 2017, is a community centre in which girls can be physically active and pursue all-round wellbeing skills.

The way the spaces work and the features, such as ‘me zones’, have been designed in response to how we know girls like to live and learn together. We want every girl to feel confident in an environment in which she can be physically active.

The Artemis Centre includes a 25-metre swimming pool, basketball and netball courts, yoga and fitness studios, as well as learning, study and consultation spaces.

We aim to nurture confident and capable girls through high quality coaching and learning experiences that emphasise fun, active play and having a go.

In the Junior Years Program, the activities available to girls have been purposefully designed to build confidence and connection for a physically active



lifestyle now and in the future. These activities provide the opportunity to enjoy and develop a well-rounded repertoire of fundamental movement skills and physical fitness.



JUNIOR YEARS HANDBOOK

Principal

Dr Toni Meath

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