Catherine McAuley
WESTMEAD

educating young women for the future
PERFORM THE ORDINARY EXTRAORDINARILY WELL
Catherine McAuley Westmead is a Catholic girls’ school founded by the Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta. Inspired by our founder, Mother Catherine McAuley, we aspire to a God-centred way of life, which respects and affirms the dignity of each person.

In embracing our Mercy heritage and charism, we:
- commit to excellence in girls’ education
- empower young women to be actively involved in social justice
- value our diversity and inclusiveness
- build community through hospitality
- foster the development of the whole person

We commit ourselves to the vision of Mother Catherine McAuley: “to perform the ordinary, extraordinarily well.”
May God bless and protect you and make you the instrument of his glory.

Mother Catherine McAuley

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Catherine McAuley Westmead is a school founded in the Mercy tradition and these words of Catherine McAuley above, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, inspire us as educators to form our students both spiritually and academically.

McAuley girls are nurtured to be courageous young women who act compassionately to build community and who are alive with the mercy and justice of God. We are dedicated to fostering a commitment to excellence and lifelong learning in our students.

Throughout their time with us we support and challenge our students to be open to new ideas and have the ability to make wise choices, as well as build a life that will be centred on contemplation and action, prayer and service.

As learners McAuley girls are called to think critically and creatively and strive for excellence in all that they do.

As the principal of Catherine McAuley, I am excited and honoured to be part of such a dynamic community here at Westmead. I look forward to meeting our families and working alongside you to provide the best educational opportunities for your daughter.

Laetitia Richmond
Principal
Catherine McAuley follows the Parramatta Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum, Sharing Our Story.

Girls in Years 11 and 12 can choose to study Studies of Religion I or II Unit, in which the school consistently achieves a high standard. In all years, Religious Education combines academic rigour with personal faith development.

The charism and heritage of Catherine McAuley lies at the very heart of our school. Religious Education is a formal part of the curriculum and our Catholic values underpin all aspects of school life. All students are encouraged to reflect on their personal spirituality and develop a mature understanding and appreciation of Catholic teaching and practice.
**Spirital Life**

Prayer has a special role in our daily activities and there are regular opportunities for weekday Mass, Reconciliation, Lenten devotions and the Rosary.

Throughout the year, members of the school community gather to celebrate our identity as members of a Christ-centred Mercy community, including:

- Opening School Mass
- Year Level Masses
- Ash Wednesday liturgy
- Holy Thursday liturgy
- Mercy Day Mass
- Year 12 Graduation Mass

Our school chaplain and local priests work closely with the school to provide for the ongoing spiritual needs of our students and families. Retreats and reflection days form a significant part of each girl’s spiritual growth, culminating in a three-day residential retreat for senior students.

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“God requires that we should be shining lamps giving light to all around us!”

Mother Catherine McAuley
JUSTICE & COURAGE - ACT AND STAND UP FOR BELIEFS
We seek to develop in our students an awareness of those in need and encourage active involvement in social justice initiatives, including:

- Mercy projects undertaken by our Mercy Action Group
- Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Cabrini Nursing Home Westmead
- Mamre House (Sisters of Mercy)
- Mercy Works

LEADERSHIP

At Catherine McAuley we encourage our young women to be leaders and provide opportunities for them to develop their confidence and skills through:

- Performing Arts evenings
- Debating
- Sporting competitions
- Liturgies
- Social justice activities
- Hospitality
- Peer Support Program
- Peer mentoring
- Girls Student Alliance Network
- Student Representative Council
At Catherine McAuley we aim to support our students to become passionate, independent and life-long learners. We encourage them to manage their own learning and establish patterns of learning that will serve them throughout their lives and careers, through:

- Active participation and problem-solving
- Responsibility for planning and organising their learning
- Committing to our student-developed Learning Charter

Catherine McAuley Westmead offers a full range of Board of Studies Approved and Endorsed courses including Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Human Society and Its Environment, Languages, Creative and Performing Arts, Technical and Applied Studies, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Vocational Education.

The detailed course outline is included in this prospectus.
It’s not just what students learn at school that’s important, it’s also how they learn.
INNOVATIVE LEARNING & TEACHING

Today’s students require innovative ways of learning to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to move into the world beyond school. Our learning and teaching strategies are responsive to the needs of 21st century learners and include:

- Integrated Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- 24/7 learning environment
- Completely networked and wireless campus
- 1 to 1 access to computers
- A learning transition program for Year 7 students, encompassing language, mathematical, ITC and social literacy
- The Integrated Studies elective in Year 8 - a project based course where students negotiate their projects and take initiative for their own learning under the guidance of their teacher
- Flexible electives in Years 9 and 10 which increase student choice and experience
Pastoral care at Catherine McAuley is based on the core Mercy values of mercy, justice, excellence, integrity, courage and hospitality and recognises the need to address the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of the young women in our care.

Complementing our academic program, the pastoral care program supports and encourages the development of each student through:

- House, Liturgy and Social Justice committees
- Student Representative Council
- Peer support
- Individual guidance and counselling
- Youth Forums
- Peer Tutoring
- Seminars addressing current issues
- Merit system

All students belong to a House based Homeroom group which meets each day. This enables the interaction and participation of each student and teacher in a personal environment. Year and House groups meet on a regular basis to acknowledge and affirm students’ achievements. Pastoral care programs at each year level are designed to help build resilience, independence and courage within each girl.

The creation of a warm and inclusive community where all feel safe and valued, is a key focus of life at Catherine McAuley.
Catherine McAuley recognises the importance of a smooth transition from primary to secondary school. We facilitate this change with a formal transition program, beginning in year 5 and continuing through year 7.

The program includes:
- Year 7 back to primary school visits
- Orientation day
- Peer support
- New parents welcome evening
- Parent-teacher meetings

To assist our teachers in responding to the individual needs of students, the diversity team identifies areas of student strengths and challenges, and provides specialist programs to support and extend students across a range of areas.

The diversity team includes teachers trained in Learning Support, English as a Second Language, Literacy and Numeracy.

Catherine McAuley also provides:
- Full time school counsellor
- Careers adviser
- Teacher librarian
Catherine McAuley offers a range of opportunities to enrich students’ school experiences including:

- Drama Club
- Creative Arts
- Music ensembles (instrument and vocal tuition, choir, band, AMEB exams)
- Hospitality
- Overseas exchange
- Dance troupes
- Photography
- Mercy in Action social justice programs
- Retreat and reflection programs
- Academic competitions and challenges
- Debating
- Leadership programs and leaders’ conference
- Public speaking
- Youth Forum
- Philosophy
- Tournament of Minds
- Gifted and Talented programs
- Maths Lab
- SPARK Program (St Vincent de Paul Society assisting Refugee Kids)
SCHOOL & REPRESENTATIVE SPORT

Catherine McAuley students have opportunities to participate in interschool, diocesan, regional, state and national competitions with school representative sport including:

- AFL
- Touch football
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Netball
- Hockey
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Vigaro
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Dance
- Fencing
- Golf
- Flag ball
- Oztag
- Frisbee
- Cricket
Our learning programs are supported by an exceptionally well equipped campus and contemporary, versatile learning spaces, including:

- Access to the latest learning technologies and mobile computer labs
- Information Resource Centre
- 1 to 1 access to computers
- Commercial kitchen
- Art, photography, drama, music and dance studios
- Fully equipped science laboratories
- Lecture theatre
- Performance hall/gymnasium
- School Chapel
- Olympic size swimming pool
- Hockey and touch football oval
- Netball and tennis courts
- Indoor basketball courts
- Direct transport routes via bus and train
OUR FAMILIES

We welcome and value the participation of our parents and families in the life of our school community through:

• Direct communication available online, via school diary, phone contact or meetings
• Regular parent teacher interviews
• Fortnightly online newsletter
• Detailed interim and formal reports
• An active Parents and Friends Association
• Involvement in carnivals, Masses and celebrations

CIRCLE OF MERCY

Established in 1966 by The Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta, Catherine McAuley Westmead retains strong links with our founding community through:

• Ongoing staff formation in the Mercy tradition
• Membership of the Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association
• Biennial Mercy conferences
• Links with Mercy missions in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste
• Membership of the Mercy 5 Group of secondary schools in Sydney
• Active participation of Sisters of Mercy within our school community
• Support for Mercy Works
Catherine McAuley adheres to the enrolment policy of the Diocese of Parramatta. Enrolment is open to all girls (Year 7-12) who share the values of the school. Parents seeking enrolment for their daughters are invited to contact the school for an enrolment package or download an application at www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au.

ALUMNI & ENROLMENT

ALWAYS A MCAULEY GIRL

Our Alumni Association continues the spirit of Catherine McAuley beyond school through:

- Regular reunions of past students and staff
- Consultation and collaboration in strategic planning
- Career mentoring and professional encouragement
- Alumni Facebook page
CAMPUS SITE AND FACILITIES
MAP

1. Administration centre and staff study
2. Classrooms and senior study/common room
3. Science laboratories and IT centre
4. Visual arts studios
5. TAS workshop
6. Hospitality kitchen
7. McAuley Forum (lecture theatre)
8. Hockey fields and outdoor courts
9. Performing arts precinct
10. Bus bay and student drop off/pick up area*
11. Classrooms, open learning areas, undercover sporting area, student support
12. Mercy Chapel
13. Information Resource Centre
14. Morley Centre (auditorium and gymnasium)*
15. Olympic swimming pool
16. North Western T-Way

*facility shared with Parramatta Marist