

—*Altiora Quaerite*  
Strive for Higher Things

Catherine  
McAuley

WESTMEAD



# About Catherine McAuley



## Perform the ordinary extraordinarily well

Catherine McAuley Westmead is a Catholic Girls' School established by the Sisters Of Mercy, Parramatta. Inspired by the founder of the Sisters of Mercy, 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 Venerable Catherine McAuley to perform the ordinary extraordinarily well.







‘May God bless  
and protect you  
and make you the  
instrument of his  
glory’

Venerable Catherine McAuley

## Principal's message

Catherine McAuley Westmead is a school founded in the Mercy tradition and the 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 students' families and working alongside them to provide the best educational opportunities for their daughters.

Mary Refalo,  
Principal.



Catherine McAuley follows the Parramatta Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum.

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 lie 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.

# Religious

## EDUCATION



# MERCY – act with compassion in all we do



‘God requires that we should be shining lamps giving light to all around us!’

Venerable Catherine McAuley

## Spiritual 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
- The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 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.





We seek to develop in our students an awareness of those in need and encourage active involvement in social justice initiatives, such as:

- Mercy projects undertaken by our Mercy Action Group
- Caritas Australia's Project Compassion
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Mercy Works
- Catholic Care
- Jesuit Refugee Service

# Justice

ACT AND STAND  
UP FOR BELIEFS





# Leadership

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

- Leadership programs
- Performing Arts evenings
- Debating
- Sporting competitions
- Liturgies
- Social justice activities
- Hospitality
- Peer Support Program
- Peer mentoring
- Girls Student Alliance Network
- Student Representative Council
- Public Speaking
- Youth Forums
- Strong Sisters Group - indigenous students

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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:

- Engagement with our motto *Altiora Quae*rite - Strive for Higher Things
- Active participation and problem-solving
- Responsibility for planning and organising their learning
- Commitment to our student-developed Learning Charter
- Commitment to our Learning Framework

Catherine McAuley Westmead offers a full range of Board of Studies Approved and Endorsed courses: 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 and Training Courses (VET).

The detailed course outline is included with this prospectus.

# Excellence

STRIVE FOR OUR  
PERSONAL BEST

It's not just what students learn at school that's important, it's also how they learn.









## Innovative Learning and Teaching

Our approach to learning prioritises the skills required for young women to actively participate in a dynamic world as autonomous lifelong learners who are connected, adaptable, discerning and articulate. We know that 21st century skills enable young women to collaborate, communicate and think critically and we apply the development of these skills to our learning. The learning and teaching strategies we employ are responsive to the needs of our diverse learners. These strategies include:

- Diverse curriculum offerings including Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)
- Focus on literacy and communication as a means to learn and engage with the real world
- Comprehensive academic care structure
- Flexible learning spaces
- 21st Century learning environment
- Extensive extracurricular program
- Community partnerships











## Integrity Pastoral Care

Catherine McAuley's Pastoral Care Program complements our learning and teaching strategies to provide academic care for all students.

The core Mercy Values of mercy, justice, excellence, integrity, courage and hospitality are the foundation for an environment where right relationships are established and the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of the young women in our care is nurtured.

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.



# Integra





The creation of a warm and inclusive community where all feel safe and valued, is a key focus of life at Catherine McAuley

**t** PERSONAL VALUES WITH  
THOSE OF THE SCHOOL



# Learning & Support Programs

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 6 and continuing through Year 7.

The program includes:

- Orientation day
- Peer support program
- Year 7 Family Welcome Evening
- Parent-Teacher meetings
- Peer mentoring program





## Specialist Staff

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 support. The Diversity Team includes teachers trained in Special Education and English as a Second Language.

Catherine McAuley also provides:

- Full time school counsellor
- Careers advisor
- Teacher librarian

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## SUPPORT PROGRAMS





# Enrichment

## OPPORTUNITIES

Catherine McAuley offers a range of opportunities to enrich students' school experiences:

- Academic competitions and challenges
- Access to opportunities provided through Girls Alliance such as Space Camp
- Australian Schools Space Design program
- CAPTIVATE Performing Arts Ensemble
- Dance troupes
- Debating
- Drama Club
- Environment Group
- History Club
- History Mastermind
- Hospitality
- IT Group
- Leadership Programs
- Maths Lab
- Mentoring primary school students
- Mercy in Action Group (MAG)
- Mock Trial
- Music ensembles (instrument and vocal tuition, choir, band, AMEB exams)
- Overseas exchange
- Philosophy
- Public Speaking
- Retreat and reflection programs
- Social justice programs
- STEM Club
- Student Alliance Group
- Student Media Team
- Student Representative Council
- Vinnies Van Group
- Youth Forums







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# Sports

## PROGRAMS



## School and Representative Sport

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

- AFL
- Touch football
- Athletics
- Basketball

- Netball
- Hockey
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Dance





- Fencing
- Golf
- Flag ball
- Oztag
- Frisbee
- Cricket
- Triathlon
- Swimming



Our learning programs are supported by an exceptionally well equipped campus and contemporary, versatile learning spaces, including:

- Access to a range of subject specific learning technologies
- Information Resource Centre
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program
- Commercial kitchen
- Art, photography, drama, music and dance studios
- Fully equipped science laboratories
- Lecture theatre
- Performance hall/gymnasium
- School Chapel
- Netball and tennis courts
- Indoor basketball courts

## Accessibility

- Direct transport routes via bus and train

## Map

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

\*facility shared with Parramatta Marist High School and Mother Teresa Primary School



# Campus FACILITIES







## 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 planner, phone contact or meetings
- Regular parent teacher student meetings
- Fortnightly online newsletter
- Detailed interim and formal reports
- An active Parents and Friends Association
- Involvement in carnivals, Masses and celebrations



# Hospitality

WELCOME TO ALL PEOPLE,  
IDEAS & CHALLENGES



# Circle of mercy

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

- 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 6 Group of secondary schools in Sydney
- Active participation of Sisters of Mercy within our school community
- Support for Mercy Works







## Always a McAuley girl

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

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

# Alumni & ENROLMENT

## Enrolment information

Catherine McAuley adheres to the enrolment policy of the Diocese of Parramatta. Enrolment is open to all girls (Years 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](http://www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au).











## CATHERINE McAULEY

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