



# Mercy Catholic College

## Chatswood





# *Welcome from* THE PRINCIPAL

Mercy Catholic College is a Catholic secondary school for girls, Years 7 to 12, located in the heart of Chatswood.

Our students enjoy a strong profile in the local community as learners, thinkers, leaders and most importantly, young women of action and compassion.

This is because students, staff and parents work in partnership to ensure that opportunities are available to assist each student to fulfil her potential.

The formation of our students in Christian discipleship is pursued within the Mercy charism which stresses the importance of hospitality, shared ministry and a concern for the poor and the marginalised. This is achieved through ongoing reflection on the action of God in our lives and the many religious rituals we celebrate as a Catholic community.

The College recognises the worth of each individual, encourages the understanding that rights must be balanced by responsibilities, and encourages each person to respond to their duty as a global citizen.

Suzanne Kavanagh







## *Sisters of Mercy*

# OUR HERITAGE

Mercy Catholic College was established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1890 and has been on the present site since 1905.

The Sisters of Mercy is a Religious organisation founded by Catherine McAuley on December 12, 1831 in Dublin, Ireland. The Sisters of Mercy were known as pioneering women who were daring and generous in their mission to reach out to the needs of others by providing education, hospitality and pastoral care, particularly to women.

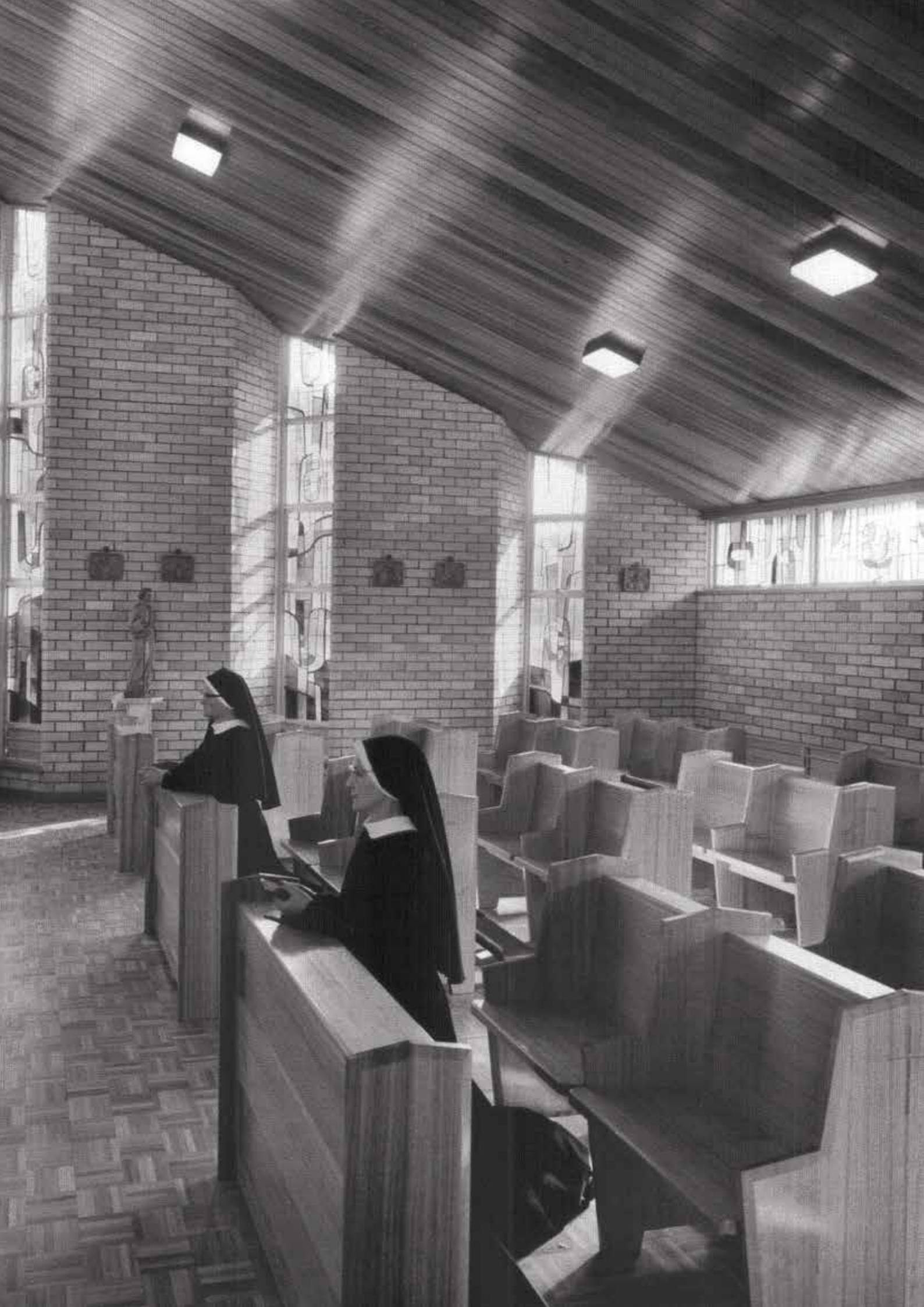
In Australia, there are many different communities of the Sisters of Mercy who carry on Catherine McAuley's legacy. In 1890 Mercy Catholic College, then known as St Catherine's School, was established by the North Sydney community.

The Sisters of Mercy administered the College until 1989 and since then it has been part of the Diocese of Broken Bay system of Catholic schools.

A member of the Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association, Mercy Catholic College has strong links with all Mercy schools throughout Australia and internationally.

Catherine McAuley's teachings continue to guide and inspire our young women to *Strive for Better Things*.







*Strive For Better Things*

# VISION MISSION VALUES

## Our Vision

Through excellence in education, our young women become critical and creative thinkers with a sense of social responsibility and discipleship.

## Our Mission

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay exist to educate and form young people in Catholic discipleship, offering them experiences of following Jesus as members of the Catholic community.

The Mercy Catholic College Mission is to work within the Catholic tradition and Mercy charism to educate, empower and inspire independent young women to achieve academic, social and spiritual growth.

## Our Values

- Respect – we honour each other, the sacredness of the earth and the resources we share.
- Compassion – we put into practice an empathic understanding of the individual needs and cultural heritage of others.
- Integrity - we communicate with sincerity and undertake ethical conduct.
- Excellence – we aim to achieve the highest possible standard in all endeavours.
- Hospitality – we create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.







## *Pastoral Care*

# STUDENT WELLBEING

Mercy College provides a caring educational community where each student is known and nurtured as an individual.

By creating positive relationships within the school and broader community we aim to enhance the wellbeing of each student and develop a sense of social responsibility within our students.

- Students are encouraged to develop strong relationships and interact in a positive way with their peers, other students and staff.
- Students are assisted to develop an understanding of the importance of personal goals, their words, actions and commitment, in relation to learning and living in the school community.
- The College has well-developed Pastoral Care structures and programmes which support student wellbeing.
- Pastoral Care is based on a Vertical Tutor Group system supported by a Year Co-ordinator.









## *Opportunities for Growth*

# ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mercy College has a long history of academic excellence and we believe that education is about growth.

At Mercy we recognise the needs of our students are diverse and therefore constantly aim to develop courses and apply teaching strategies that accommodate different learning styles, rates of learning and learning abilities, so that each individual experiences growth.

By providing a nurturing and supportive environment we encourage students to develop their potential and become self-motivated, life-long learners. A wide range of subjects is offered and throughout their time at Mercy College students are given informed advice around subject choices which balances personal interest with the correct progression through to university, TAFE and other tertiary study.

The College places great importance on the reporting of student performance to parents. This is accomplished through two formal written reporting periods in the academic year and two Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews held throughout the year.







## *Learning Support*

# STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

### **Enrichment**

At Mercy College we believe that students need the skills to move beyond their own perceived capacity or the assumed capacity of a cohort. Ideally, learners set goals for themselves, and reflectively make decisions about their learning choices.

- Year 7 students participate in Metacognition classes which develop their knowledge about when and where to use particular strategies for learning or problem solving.
- Teachers have responded to the challenge of extending gifted and talented students by differentiating the curriculum.
- Opportunities are provided for students to be involved in numerous competitions such as Tournament of the Minds, Essential Secondary Science Assessment, Future Problem Solving, Titration and Australia wide History, Mathematics and Geography competitions.
- We provide opportunities for nominated students to work with experts in the fields of Philosophy, Astronomy, International Relations and Archaeology.

### **The Honour Programme**

This programme is to encourage students to achieve to their best ability academically, being in the top 20% of their cohort, as well as fulfilling a range of social justice and community based commitments. If students meet all the criteria they will graduate from their Year group as an Honour Student.

### **Learning Support**

At Mercy College we recognise that the needs of our students are diverse and we attempt to accommodate different learning styles and rates of learning. Our Learning Support Team consists of teachers who have post-graduate qualifications in a variety of fields related to Special Education, who are supported by a group of learning assistants who work with individual students in mainstream classes.







## *Student Enrichment*

# CO-CURRICULAR

At Mercy College we are interested in the development of the whole person not just the academic, so we offer numerous opportunities for students to participate in co-curricular activities.

- **Mercy Action:** This group is an integral part of our Social Justice programme, meeting weekly to discuss and plan initiatives which will support and assist the poor or marginalised.
- **An overseas immersion experience** is offered annually so that senior students experience first-hand how words of empathy can be put into deeds of action.
- **Sport:** A variety of sport is offered either as part of the MCC Activities Club weekend competition or the Broken Bay Secondary Schools Sports Association. Sports include: netball, touch, basketball, soccer, hockey, tennis, swimming.
- **Debating and Public Speaking:** Opportunities are available for students in all Year levels to be involved in competitive Debating and Public Speaking.
- **Clubs:** There are many Clubs for students who have a special interest such as the Drama, Dance, Maths, Science, Art, Book and Writing Clubs.
- **Homework Club:** For students who would like a quiet space to complete work or might need extra assistance from a teacher.
- **Music Programme:** Students are encouraged to take advantage of our peripatetic tutors to learn a variety of musical instruments or have voice coaching. They have the opportunity to join our College Band, String Ensemble or Choir and perform at our Creative Arts Evening and other events.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

A popular non-competitive programme which enables students to participate in the attainment of a Bronze, Silver and Gold Award. The Duke of Edinburgh Award has provided Mercy students an opportunity to develop new skills, undertake voluntary community service, improve their fitness and partake in camping/hiking expeditions.

### **The Blue and Gold Award**

The Blue and Gold Award is presented to students who have excelled in areas of co-curricular involvement, community service and social justice activities. Designed to help build self-esteem, the programme has enabled our students to become more confident, interactive members of the community.







## *Facilities, Resources*

# COMMUNITY

Mercy College has two campuses located on both sides of Archer Street, adjacent to Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church. The College is a ten minute walk from trains and buses at the Chatswood interchange.

### **Sporting Facilities**

By arrangement with Willoughby City Council, Mercy College has the use of the facilities at Beauchamp Oval, a 5 minute walk from the College campus. Our swimmers train at the Fitness First Centre which is a 5 minute walk from the College. Physical Activity classes are conducted in the Fitness First gym.

### **Creative Arts Facilities**

The College has a number of facilities to support a very successful Creative Arts department that teaches Drama, Music, Dance and Visual Arts.

The Music Centre is equipped with two keyboard laboratories, an IT composition suite, recording studio and private tuition rooms for instruments such as piano, woodwind, strings, voice, brass, drums, percussion, flute and guitar. Students may join the College Choir, Concert Band or String Ensemble.

The Drama space is an air conditioned performance space with dedicated stage, lighting and sound facilities, dressing room and audience space.

The outdoor amphitheatre is an outdoor venue for the creative arts with lighting and sound facilities and seating for an audience of 400.

### **TAS Facilities**

Our well-equipped TAS department provides opportunities for our students to experience woodwork, textiles and design courses, with a fully-equipped kitchen for the Food Technology classes.

### **The Learning Resource Centre**

The Learning Resource Centre is a learning space which functions as an integrated library of print materials, a learning technology centre and a careers information unit.









## *Parent Involvement*

# OUR MERCY FAMILY

When students enrol at Mercy College, the whole family is welcomed to the community as we work in partnership with parents and carers to provide a caring and nurturing environment which enhances student development.

Parents and carers offer strong leadership and support in many aspects of College life including:

### **The Parent Association**

This important group facilitates educational, fundraising and social events for the College community. Meetings provide a venue for parent contribution to decision making and input is always welcome. In recent years the Mercy Parent Association has provided shade sails for the College Amphitheatre, a ceramics kiln, computers for music composition and interactive whiteboards.

### **The Mercy Catholic College (MCC) Activities Club**

This is a parent run organisation which provides the opportunity for students to become involved in a large variety of sports, representing the school in weekend competitions in such sports as netball, hockey, swimming and tennis. The Activities Club consists of parents who take on the roles of executive, convenors, coaches and managers.


At Mercy College we maintain links to our heritage and our wider Mercy family through:

### **Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association (AMSSA)**

Mercy College is a member of the AMSSA whose aim is to further Mercy spirituality and ethos for secondary education through sharing expertise and resources and by providing national and international forums for Mercy educators.

### **The Mercy 5**

Mercy 5 is an organisation which binds the five remaining Mercy high schools in Sydney closely together. The Principals meet regularly and students from each College are part of a strong social justice network.







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