

Young women  
of integrity  
and purpose



**PLC**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
LADIES' COLLEGE  
SYDNEY  
— 1888 —





# PLC SYDNEY PROSPECTUS

PLC Sydney aims to educate young women from the basis of a Christian world-view to play a creative and decisive part in making a difference in the communities in which they live.

*Margaret Child-Villiers, the Countess of Jersey made an impromptu speech at the opening of the College grounds in Croydon in 1891. The words she spoke were reported around the world, and resonate today in our purpose and mission.*

*"To gain knowledge for the mere sake of possessing it is selfishness; to gain knowledge for the mere love of displaying it is vanity; to gain knowledge for the sake of being useful to others is true Christian charity."*

*Our College spirit is captured in the closing line of our school song: **"to make the world a better place and life a worthier thing."***



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# WELCOME

**An investment in education is a commitment to the formation of a person, and in their future.**

In our school years we engage in many thousands of conversations and we are exposed to a multitude of new ideas and skills. If you select PLC Sydney as your daughter's school, she will be joining a community of learners who are developing their characters and are exposed to excellence. I know that she will have many opportunities to develop into a young woman who can make a strong contribution to her community.

PLC Sydney has been educating girls and young women for over 129 years. It is our great joy to undertake this task. We are privileged to be involved in such an important work.

Our graduates are engaged in a multitude of professions, academic and creative, at the highest levels. Ex-PLC Sydney students are currently pro-vice chancellors and professors; engineers and artists; doctors, teachers

and lawyers; as well as being mothers, sisters and daughters. They take with them when they leave their values of reverence, wisdom and service, based on the Christian gospel of grace.

Our reason for existing is to enable girls and young women to flourish. We offer a rich academic program supported by a very strong cultural, sporting and co-curricular framework. We promote excellence, but we are very committed to 'reaching' each student. None of our programs are 'token' offerings. The excellence we achieve is due to the fact that we have many students involved and learning together.

This prospectus provides a glimpse of our structure and programs. I hope you will visit PLC Sydney and meet the students who are the basis of our community.

**Dr Paul Burgis**  
Principal





## ABOUT PLC SYDNEY

PLC Sydney is a non-selective school for girls from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12, offering a broad curriculum to students from a diverse range of backgrounds. Boarding is available from Year 7.

Founded in 1888 and situated on 4.4 hectares at Croydon, in Sydney's inner west region, the College features beautifully landscaped grounds surrounding 19th century heritage buildings and many modern, state-of-the-art facilities.

PLC Sydney educates young women from the basis of a Christian world view, ensuring they are equipped to contribute not only to the school community but also to society at large. Our vision is to have graduates who are confident, caring, accomplished young

women of integrity and purpose who seek to make a positive contribution to society, both in Australia and overseas, and who carry a genuine concern for the welfare of others.

The school also provides a special curriculum for approximately 30 girls in the Senior School with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. The curriculum is predominantly life-skills based and is developed to meet individual needs. These students are members of the Transition class.

Children are curious, enthusiastic and keen to learn. All Junior School students are actively involved in their own learning, in a positive environment where girls are encouraged to work together, explore their gifts and talents, and recognise that with persistence and effort they can grow and reach the very best they can be.

We operate with a growth mindset and seek to develop a learning culture where students develop academically, spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically.



## OUR COLLEGE

### JUNIOR SCHOOL

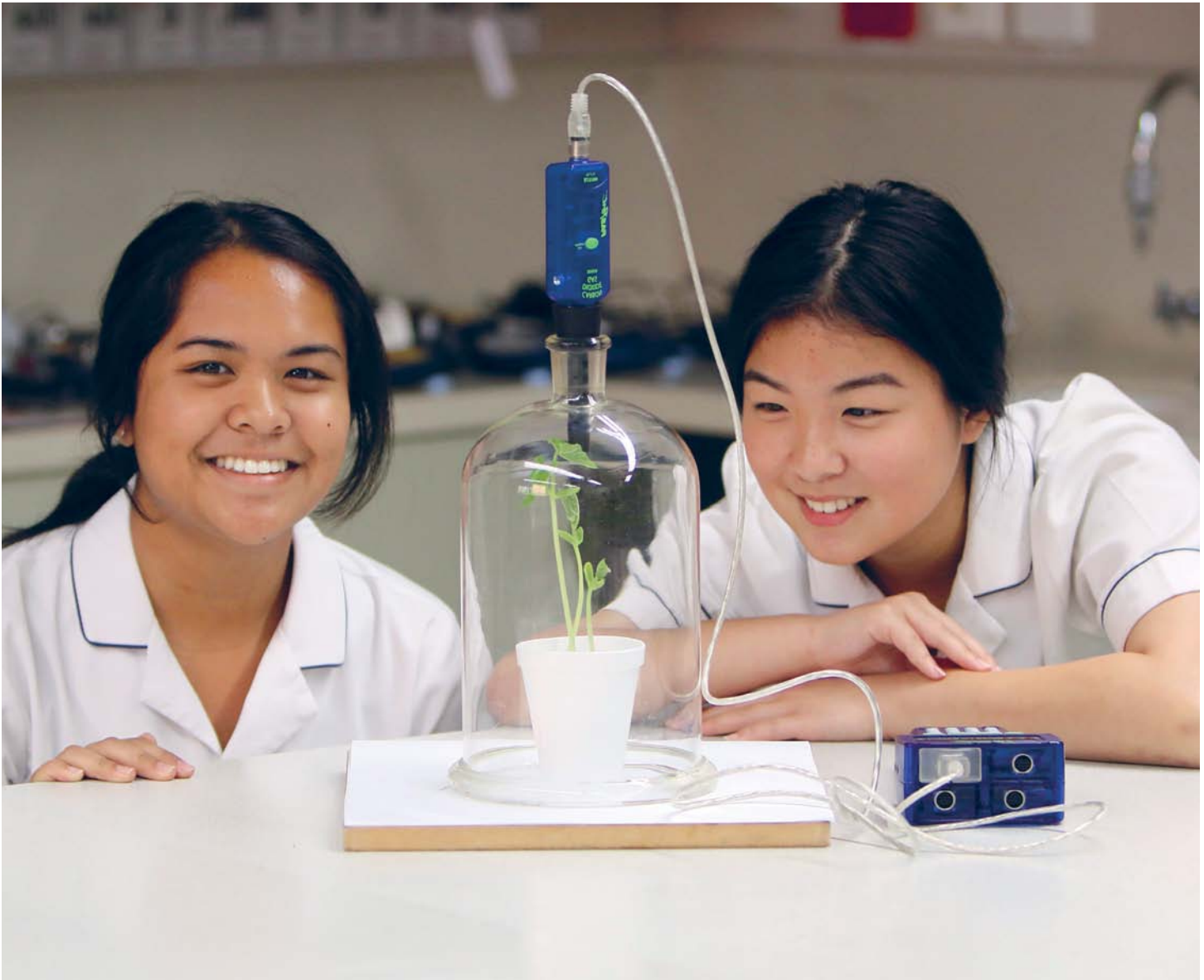
A strong foundation is essential in ensuring sound academic and social development for future learning. Our Junior School provides a broad values-based education, with its focus on academic excellence underpinned by a rich co-curricular program, which endeavours to develop in the children an enthusiasm and curiosity for learning, whilst building confidence and self-esteem. The Pre-Kindergarten program is a specially-designed five-day program for four-year-olds, inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy. This program is based on the belief that children should learn through interaction with others, including staff,

peers, parents and the environment. Central to this philosophy is the belief in the capabilities and true potential of children. They help to create the curriculum and learn through play and formal settings. The students also participate in a strong literacy and numeracy program.

The Junior School staff at Evandale (Pre-Kindergarten to Year 2) and Hamilton (Years 3 to 6), work as a team to achieve the vision and values of PLC Sydney. Students benefit from having access to all the facilities of a Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 College and specialist teachers across the curriculum.

In the new state-of-the-art development called the Gateway Project, Hamilton has been renewed to include flexible learning spaces and specialist STEM areas; new Science and Technology Makerspace rooms, a fully functioning pond and Arthropod Centre, a large food garden and an indoor amphitheatre for the Arts. The Gateway with its open walkways and engaging playground areas, is the new entrance and administrative hub of the College, as well as providing beautiful grounds for staff, students and their families. This wonderful addition to PLC Sydney's excellent facilities is based on the notions of intimacy and openness, providing exciting learning spaces for collaboration and innovation.





## SENIOR SCHOOL

Students entering the Senior School join a community of learners who are encouraged to reach beyond their comfort zone in all aspects of their lives. PLC Sydney provides a safe, encouraging environment where girls are able to try out new ideas, experiment with new processes and find new solutions to problems. Students are encouraged to set high personal standards in all that they do. One of the primary qualities that teenagers need to develop is to take charge of their own learning. This is an important goal for us. We promote excellence and we seek to 'reach' each student in our College.

## WELL-BEING

PLC Sydney's commitment to the well-being of our students is part of the ethos of the College and involves the entire school community. Respect For Others is a fundamental precept at PLC Sydney and forms the keystone of the well-being program.

Our well-being team is led by the Deputy Principal and consists of the College Nurse, Counsellors, Home Room teachers, Assistant to the Head of Junior School, Heads of Year, Director of Boarding, Chaplains and House Groups. Students in the Junior School benefit from a pastoral program provided by their classroom teachers, while students in the Senior School participate in Home Room programs in Years 7-11 that cater for 14-15 girls. The teacher in charge of the Home

Room has the wonderful task of getting to know and encourage each student. A Head of Year oversees the Home Rooms.

Our well-being program recognises, nurtures and celebrates the individuality of each student and gives all students skills for positive interaction with others within the College community. It is both a flexible program, adapting to individual and group needs as they arise, and a continuing program, addressing the recurring demands of each stage of a student's education.

All students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 belong to one of six Houses, which provide opportunities for activities and competition. Year 6 and Year 12 students give leadership to this program.

# BOARDING

We strive to create a caring environment where boarders thrive. Our Boarding House, located in the centre of the Senior School grounds, accommodates 64 students from Years 7 to 12. This means that we know our students intimately and are able to cater for them individually.

The girls reside in shared bedrooms, with increasing levels of privacy for Years 11 and 12. The house is structured vertically so the girls socialise and mentor each other across all year groups and the majority of our boarders are full-time boarders, providing a stable and supportive environment. Boarding at PLC Sydney provides students with the opportunity to form life-long friendships with girls from both Australia and overseas.

Academic support at evening study sessions is provided by qualified teaching staff. Fun and enjoyable activities are organised on Friday evenings and weekends. Being located in the vibrant inner-west region of Sydney allows the girls to easily enjoy the many activities and events on offer in Sydney. The girls are also able to access the leisure facilities on offer at the College and are actively encouraged to develop a well-rounded lifestyle.



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# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

PLC Sydney is a school that is international in both its nature and outlook. More than 40 different cultural backgrounds are represented in the College community and the curriculum and well-being program reflect this diversity.

Our aim is to provide all students with a secure and caring environment. Students from overseas are offered additional assistance which may include social integration or literacy support.

Many international students are boarders at the school. They enjoy

the company of students and staff from different countries and various regions of Australia. The global community is no more evident than within the Boarding House, where the girls mix with students from a variety of cultures.

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# COLLEGE FACILITIES

PLC Sydney's state-of-the-art facilities are equal to the best offered by any Australian school. They include a new Junior School, Aquatic Institute, a gymnasium, Performing Arts Complex, Research Centre, Art, Design and Technology Studios and a Centre for Public Speaking.

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## J D OATES AQUATIC INSTITUTE

The Aquatic Institute features two indoor heated pools and a purpose-built weights and fitness room. Learn-to-swim activities take place in the shallow 12-metre teaching pool. More proficient swimmers, including PLC Sydney's elite squads, use the adjacent eight-lane competition swimming and water polo pool.

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## THOMPSON HALL

The gymnasium and multi-purpose hall has a world-class sprung floor and is utilised by a number of school sports for training and competition. It is also home to PLC Sydney's gymnastics club, with its full complement of gymnastic equipment.

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## MCKEITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

This superbly equipped performing arts centre houses a theatre with state-of-the-art lighting and audio, a recording studio, a music computer laboratory for composing and editing, orchestral rooms, a number of drama and rehearsal spaces and numerous general teaching spaces.

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## MACINDOE RESEARCH CENTRE

The research centre is a four-storey facility that houses books and other hard copy resources alongside the latest software programs and hardware devices. It embraces and encourages digital literacy and investigation. Whether operating from workstations or using their own laptop computers and electronic devices, students have access to more than a thousand individual, subject-oriented internet sites to which the College subscribes, as well as to millions more that are freely available to all. A variety of large, open plan areas, including a ground floor café, provide opportunities for collaborative learning, while a number of smaller rooms facilitate quiet study.

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## THE CROYDON: CENTRE FOR ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

The original Croydon Hotel was transformed into an impressive Centre for Art, Design and Technology. In the various studios of Animation, Ceramics, Digital Media, Food Technology, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Textiles and 3D Forms, and in the field of design and production using wood, plastics and fine metals, students actively engage in the art and design process, producing inventive works reflective of the traditions and current trends in their chosen media. What was once the main bar of the hotel is now The Adelaide Perry Gallery, a professional exhibition space.

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## LYONS HOUSE: CENTRE FOR THE SPOKEN WORD

Lyons House, a federation building within the school grounds, is the College's speech centre. Students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 attend lessons with specialist tutors to enhance their speech and performance skills. PLC Sydney's speech program prepares students to be confident speakers who effectively articulate their thoughts, knowledge and values to others in a public forum.





PLC Sydney's state-of-the-art facilities are equal to the best offered by any Australian school.





# CURRICULUM

## JUNIOR SCHOOL

### EARLY STAGE 1-3: PRE-KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6

Our outstanding Junior School staff deliver a stimulating and challenging academic program, largely determined by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES).

- English
- Mathematics
- HSIE - History and Geography
- Science and Technology - taught as part of a STEM program and including coding and robotics
- Creative Arts - Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Languages (French or Chinese, Latin in Year 6)
- Christian Studies

Extension and Enrichment programs and courses are offered to students from Kindergarten through to Year 6.

PLC Sydney has specialist staff teaching alongside the classroom practitioner in Science and in Coding.

## SENIOR SCHOOL

Approximately 800 girls are enrolled from Year 7 through to Year 12. PLC Sydney offers the NSW Board of Studies courses (with the option of Cambridge International courses in Years 9 and 10). Students work towards the Higher School Certificate and Cambridge IGCSE and some 'A' level examinations. Cambridge courses are used to supplement learning. PLC Sydney also offers other specialised courses - for example UNSW Computer Science, University of Sydney American History, A specialised Philosophy and Theology course.

### STAGE 4: YEARS 7 TO 8

Year 7 and 8 students follow a compulsory curriculum that is largely mandated by the NSW Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES). From Year 8 onwards, students can choose an increasing number of elective subjects each year until Years 11 and 12, where an extensive range of subjects is offered.

Students study the Stage 4 courses mandated by the NSW Board of Studies. These include: English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, French or Chinese (continuers), Design and Technology, Visual Arts, Music (Yr 7), Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) and Christian Studies. Year 8 has the additional subjects of History, Visual Arts and a second language chosen from Japanese, Italian, Beginners Chinese or Latin.



**STAGE 5: YEARS 9 TO 10**

Students in Years 9 and 10 study a program comprised of three elective courses in addition to the NSW Board of Studies Mandatory subjects.

The compulsory core subjects are: English, Mathematics, Science, Australian History, Geography, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) and Religious Education.

**3 Electives are chosen from:**

- Commerce
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Italian
- Japanese
- Latin
- Mandarin
- Music
- Physical Activity and Sports Science
- Textiles Technology
- Visual Arts
- Vivid Text

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS**

International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE)

In addition to the NSW Board of Studies subjects offered, the College also offers students the opportunity to study Cambridge IGCSE elective courses in Years 9 and 10. The Cambridge IGCSE subjects provide enrichment and engagement in areas not available within

the standard curriculum. It encourages learner-centred and enquiry-based approaches to studying. It also enables students to sit examinations in globally recognised courses.

**The electives we have chosen to extend and engage our students are:**

- Physical Sciences
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Global Perspectives
- Philosophy and Belief (Hybrid course)
- History
- Technology
- AS Level General Studies

The College is currently exploring the addition of pre-university Cambridge courses.

**STAGE 6: YEARS 11-12**

In Years 11 and 12, the College prepares girls for the NSW Higher School Certificate. The scope of courses offered is impressive, although the curriculum has a clear university orientation.

The Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES) requires students to study a minimum of 12 units in the Preliminary Year (Year 11) and 10 units in their HSC Year (Year 12). English is compulsory, with ESL, Standard, Advanced and Extension courses offered.

**Other courses offered include:**

- Ancient History
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Community and Family Studies

- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Economics
- Food Technology
- Geography
- Languages – French, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Chinese
- Legal Studies
- Mathematics – all levels
- Modern History
- Music (Course 1 and 2)
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Physics
- Studies of Religion
- Textiles and Design
- Visual Arts

We also run three one unit courses in Year 11 only. They are:

- Photography, Video and Digital Imaging
- Computing Applications
- Visual Design

In addition, we offer access to the introductory UNSW First Year University 'Computer Science' course.

**In Year 12, Extension subjects are offered in:**

- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Music
- All Languages

More than a place of consistent academic excellence, PLC Sydney is a place where girls are encouraged to grow into confident, caring and accomplished young women of integrity and purpose.



# CO-CURRICULAR

Students at PLC Sydney have the opportunity to participate in a wealth of co-curricular activities. With more than 50 activities offered in the Senior School and in the Junior School, there is something for everyone.

There are activities for those who like to talk, be active, perform, compete, play music, think and theorise, experiment, understand other cultures and those who want to contribute to the global community.

The idea of co-curricular activities is for students to learn a new skill, discover and develop their talents and interests, meet and develop friendships with students in all years, become a valued member of a team and to have fun.



Extensive opportunities exist for each student to pursue her own interests and to nurture her individual talent.





## SERVICE LEARNING AND INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PLC Sydney has one of the best developed and most extensive Service Learning and overseas education programs in Australia.

Service Learning offers our students an opportunity to really make a difference in a variety of communities – local, national and international. The program fosters leadership, creativity and problem solving and builds strong connections between our students and the communities they support. This begins in the Junior School. Each class supports a charity and together we work towards raising funds and resources for the Australian Red Cross and IPSHA special projects. The Junior School also supports the Service Learning programs in the Senior School.

The program is based on the idea that we can all flourish as we learn to love our neighbour. It includes service on the school roundabout and in taking tours of the College.

**The program enables students to learn to serve locally and internationally:**

**Year 7:** Wunanburi Pre-school - getting to know local indigenous children

**Year 8:** Allowah Presbyterian Children's Home - encouraging and connecting with children who have a disability

**Year 9:** Guide Dogs Association (Pet Show) - organising a pet show and raising money to put a guide dog into service

**Year 10:** Timor Leste Presbyterian Schools - assisting a neighbouring nation to educate their children

**Year 11:** Ba Vi Orphanage, Vietnam - supporting adults and children impacted by The Vietnam War

**Year 12:** International Justice Mission - learning about global justice

The College offers three annual Service Learning Tours to East Timor, Vietnam and Central Australia. Through the Service Learning program, students are encouraged to reach out to local, national and international communities that are in need of support.

Each year group focuses on an Australian or international project, learning about the needs of the community involved and then organising fundraising initiatives.

Girls have an opportunity in their senior years to visit the international projects they are involved with and see the benefits of their fundraising efforts first hand. Countries in which PLC Sydney has on-going support projects include Vietnam and East Timor.

The International Program is a significant feature of College life and celebrates our global approach to curriculum. International exchange is an annual Year 10 program offering reciprocal placements in our partner schools across the world, including Brazil, China, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, The Netherlands and Vietnam. Through their overseas experiences, students are rewarded with increased intercultural understanding, a sense of international citizenship, improved foreign language skills and a commitment to the principles of peace, social justice and mutual respect.





## COMMUNITY

### ALUMNI

PLC Sydney values its alumni and seeks to keep in touch with former students by holding reunion events. Many former students are actively involved in the school's Ex-Students' Union, which hosts a number of events, supports College projects and awards annual prizes to current students.

From 2017, all PLC Sydney students will automatically become members of the Ex-Students' Union, as part of their enrolment.

### PARENTS AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

The PLC Sydney Parents and Friends' (P&F) Association provides a forum of communication for parents of students and friends of the College as well as opportunities for social interaction and fundraising support.

The P&F Association operates a number of support groups, comprised of volunteer parents, who work to enrich the school lives of our students by improving the quality of the school's educational resources. This support may come in the form of fundraising, administrative or moral support and

targets sporting, the arts or other interest areas across the Junior and Senior schools.

### FOUNDATION

The PLC Foundation was established by the College Council in 1987. Its principle role is to provide financial support for the College in order to assist in the provision of a Christian education and safeguard the financial independence of the school. Three special funds (Building, Scholarship and Education) exist within two Deeds of Trust, with each fund receiving donations that may only be used in support of the College.





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## ENROLMENT AT PLC SYDNEY

Girls can be enrolled in any year group at PLC Sydney, subject to availability. However, the main intake years are Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Years 5, 7 and 11. Having made the decision to enrol your daughter at the College, there are a number of steps to be completed. All the relevant forms and documents are provided on our website: [www.plc.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/how-to-enrol-at-plc-sydney](http://www.plc.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/how-to-enrol-at-plc-sydney)

### TOURS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS

Private tours can be arranged by contacting the Enrolments Office by phone on +61 2 9704 5695 or +61 2 9704 5626.

Group information sessions and tours are also held each term. Please see the website for more details.

### STEPS TO ENROLMENT

#### 1. APPLICATION FORM

Submit an Application for Enrolment Form and the non-refundable Application Fee, along with a copy of your daughter's birth certificate to the College. This can be done online at [www.plc.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/how-to-enrol-at-plc-sydney/enrol-online](http://www.plc.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/how-to-enrol-at-plc-sydney/enrol-online)

Please note: For students educated overseas, results of an Assessment of English Competence (AEAS test report) must be submitted prior to, or with the application. Please see future details at: [www.plc.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/overseas-students](http://www.plc.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/overseas-students)

#### 2. REGISTRATION

Once we have processed your application form and fee, we will confirm your daughter is registered on a wait-list for the year requested.

#### 3. INTERVIEW AND CONFIRMATION OF ENROLMENT

Approximately two years prior to your daughter's commencement date, you will be invited to attend an interview. After the interview, your daughter may be offered a place. At this time you will be required to complete the Enrolment Agreement (including updated enrolment information) and return it along with the non-refundable Enrolment Fee to secure and confirm your daughter's place at the school.

#### 4. COMMENCEMENT

All students enrolled to commence in Kindergarten to Year 7 will be invited to attend an Orientation Day in the year prior to commencement. All other new students will have the opportunity to meet staff and student buddies in the day before the year commences.

All documents, forms and current fees are listed on our website in the 'enrolments' section at <https://www.plc.nsw.edu.au/enrolments>





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