



**PLC**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
LADIES' COLLEGE  
**ARMIDALE**  
— 1887 —



PLC Armidale ... where girls flourish

# Prospectus

Educating successful women of tomorrow in a Christian environment

In alliance with **PLC SYDNEY**



## WELCOME

Since 1887, PLC Armidale has provided an inspirational culture of learning, supporting girls as they develop into young women of substance and character.

Specialising in the education of girls, we cater for day and boarding students, providing a nurturing environment allowing each girl to focus and flourish in the safety of a regional community.

The rich heritage of Christian and Presbyterian Education with its strong emphasis on academic endeavour, leadership, musical and sporting excellence, and community engagement remains a key focus of the College. Girls are encouraged to be active participants in the learning journey from Pre-Kinder through to Year 12.

Visitors to PLC Armidale often remark on the beautiful gardens and expansive facilities providing a unique setting in which girls flourish. A leader in girls' education located in the beautiful New England region of NSW, PLC Armidale in strategic alliance with its sister school in Sydney, provides girls many of the opportunities of a larger city school within a smaller school context. Every girl is known as an individual and has the opportunity to participate in a wide range of programs and activities on offer which build confidence, develop skills and foster personal growth along the way.

We hope you enjoy learning about our College from the pages of our prospectus.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to PLC Armidale soon.

**MRS NICOLA TAYLOR**

*Principal*





Girls *flourish* at PLC Armidale in our inspirational culture of learning



## ABOUT THE REGIONAL CITY OF ARMIDALE ✨

Armidale is a cosmopolitan and sophisticated urban centre, located in a picturesque rural setting in the New England region of northern NSW. It has long been renowned as a centre of excellence in education, providing a cultural diversity unique to regional communities, and is home to the University of New England, along with numerous independent and public secondary and primary schools and pre-schools.

The Armidale region boasts spectacular world heritage National Parks, waterfalls, gorges, cool climate vineyards and a diverse cultural heritage. The New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) and the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM) are also located in Armidale.

Music, both classical and contemporary, contributes enormously to the city's cultural vibrancy. As such, NECOM nurtures Armidale Symphony Orchestra, Armidale Youth Orchestra, Fiori Musicali and many other choral and music groups, as well as events such as the Eisteddfod, Bach festival and Musica Viva.

Regular drama and musical productions also add to the dynamic performing arts scene. NERAM is the custodian of around 5000 works of art, including the Howard Hinton, Chandler Conventry and NERAM collections.

PLC Armidale is actively involved in each of these aspects of our community's culture.



## ABOUT PLC ARMIDALE

For over a century, our College has built an enviable reputation for consistent academic achievement, an exceptional music program and sporting excellence. We specialise in educating girls to be successful young women.

A comprehensive pastoral care and chaplaincy program underpins our College curriculum.

The magnificent gardens and grounds, along with modern facilities and programs the girls and staff now enjoy, are a legacy of the vision and ongoing support of past families, staff and the Presbyterian Church.

PLC Armidale has a diverse and competitive sports offering, a challenging leadership program, extensive community service activities and international service learning opportunities.

Our girls are encouraged to be active participants in many co and extra curricular activities from music, to sport, art, drama, dance, cattle and equestrian team pursuits, to involvement in many community organisations as well as the popular Duke of Edinburgh Award program.

The achievements of our students and alumni are a testament to our focus on nurturing students' talents and interests.

Our College is situated three kilometres north of the Armidale Central Business District, on seventeen hectares of beautiful parkland and gardens. This location is convenient for its proximity to Armidale's shops and services, yet our spacious grounds reflect the tranquility and security of a rural setting.

## OUR COLLEGE ✧

PLC Armidale is the only all-girls' school from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 in Northern New South Wales. As a combined Day and Boarding School, the interaction between the Junior School, Senior School and Boarding house creates a unique connection and rapport between students, staff and families. A strong sense of community characterises the College developed even further by the interaction with our alumni as past students in turn have become present parents or even members of staff.

Whole College events such as the Welcome BBQ, Information Evening, Sport Carnivals, Guild Events and the annual Community Service Week strengthen connections within PLC Armidale and build bridges to connect with the wider community.

The sense of belonging and being valued are important factors in child and adolescent development. The positive impact of the PLC Armidale Community is appreciated by our families and noticed by others, seeing our graduates as young women of character and substance. PLC Armidale alumni are confident life-long learners, engaged with social and global issues, having developed an appreciation of service in the Christian tradition.





## PRE-KINDERGARTEN (PRE-K) ✨

Pre-Kindergarten (or Pre-K) at PLC Armidale provides a perfect beginning for lifelong learning. Based on the Reggio Emilia approach to Early Childhood education, each day is filled with engaging activities according to the needs and interests of the girls. Within the Reggio Emilia philosophy of early childhood education, the girls are actively involved in their own learning through a program based on natural curiosity and play-based activities both indoors and outside in the expansive Junior School playground.

Gross motor skills are developed through outdoor games, sport and a learn to swim program. The girls take part in music, manipulative play in the sandpit, a wide range of crafts and art-making, including pottery. Our specialist Reggio Emilia educators follow and document each child's progress with care and the individual student portfolios become a valued reflection of learning during these formative years.

Pre-Kinder join in with the Junior School for Chapel, Assembly, recess and lunchtime. A natural peer buddy program fosters positive relationships with older girls which further strengthens a sense of belonging.

PLC Armidale is a registered childcare provider number 555-016-710L.

### **Attendance**

Attendance in our Pre-Kinder program is flexible, from three to five days per week.

The Homework Centre is also available to girls in Pre-K. It operates from 3:30pm to 5:30pm each week day.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL ✨

Early years learning lays the foundation upon which future success rests. The Junior School, from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6, are formative years in the development of the whole child. The academic, co-curricular and sport programs are tailored for the uniqueness of girls' interests, needs and early learning experiences.

### **Curriculum**

Our Junior School provides girls a learning environment in which curiosity, inquiry and investigation are nurtured both inside and outside the classroom.

Literacy and numeracy are emphasised as the academic pillars upon which learning across other areas is based.

As English is our language for learning, literacy in the Junior School is a priority. THRASS (Teaching Handwriting, Reading and Spelling Skills) features in classrooms across the Junior School, with its emphasis on strengthening phonemic awareness and explicit instruction in the structured elements of English. In a language and literature rich environment, with access to a dedicated Junior School library, a range of classroom resources and a specialist speech and drama teacher, literacy flourishes at PLC Armidale.

### **A Caring Environment**

At our College, girls experience a caring, supportive environment which develops confidence. Smaller class sizes enable the staff to foster positive relationships with the students and to work closely with families. Knowing the girls and how they learn allows the teachers to cater effectively for individual differences and interests.





## SENIOR SCHOOL ✧

In every aspect of their education at PLC Armidale, girls are the focal point.

A leader in girls' education, our College equips particularly our Senior girls for their future, preparing them with the knowledge, tools and confidence to take the next step in their lives.

Perseverance, enthusiasm, and curiosity are encouraged through the breadth of subjects studied as well as the extensive co-curricular program, including the popular and challenging Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

Students entering the Senior School join a community of learners who are encouraged, challenged and celebrated in every endeavour both in and outside the classroom.

Our College offers the NSW Board of Studies courses where students work towards the Higher School Certificate and are encouraged to set high personal standards in all that they do.

The small class sizes and caring, committed staff help to ensure that girls across a range of abilities are supported to become active participants in a learning community.

### **Extension & Support**

We recognise that students have different abilities and learning styles and so we offer an extension and support program to cater for the diverse learning needs to enhance student growth. Our Specialist ESL teacher is also available to work with individual students (or small groups) whose first language is not English.

# CURRICULUM

## (YEARS 7 TO 10)

PLC Armidale is a registered and accredited school with the NSW Board of Studies and as such follows the curriculum that is largely determined by the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES).

Elective courses are introduced from Year 8. All students study Christian Studies from Years 7 - 10.

### STAGE 4: YEARS 7 TO 8

Students study Stage 4 courses mandated by the NSW Board of Studies. These include:

- English
- Design and Technology
- Geography - combined with History in Year 7 (called HSIE)
- History
- Languages – French and German in Year 7
- Languages - French or German in Year 8
- Mathematics
- Music
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Science
- Visual Arts

### STAGE 5: YEARS 9 TO 10

Students in Years 9 and 10 study a NSW Board of Studies program for Stage 5 which includes:

The compulsory subjects:

- Australian History
- English
- Australian Geography
- Mathematics
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Science

And 3 electives chosen from:

- Commerce
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- French
- German
- Music
- Design & Technology
- Visual Arts
- English Extension
- Food Technology

## **(YEARS 11 & 12)**

In the Senior Years of 11 and 12, girls are prepared for the NSW Higher School Certificate. A broad range of courses are offered and the curriculum has a clear university entrance.

### **STAGE 6: YEARS 11-12**

The Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES) requires students to study a minimum of 12 units in Year 11 (Preliminary Year) and 10 units in Year 12 (HSC Year).

The following courses are offered:

- English Standard
- Advanced or Extension courses
- (English as a Second Language is also available for students whose first language is not English)

Other courses subject to student demand may include:

- Ancient History
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Geography
- Legal Studies
- Mathematics – all levels
- Modern History
- Music (Course 1 and 2)
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

- Physics
- Sport, Lifestyle, Recreation (SLR)
- Visual Arts

Note: Not all of these courses would necessarily run in each year.

We also support students who wish to pursue a subject not offered by the College, through our distance education model. This model involves enrolment through a distance education provider with face to face support from a teacher mentor at the College.

Individual students are able to study courses not offered within the timetable, such as Distance Education or TAFE courses. Subject offerings may change from year to year, depending on demand. Some HSC subjects are conducted at other schools in Armidale. Our students can also choose to study courses at TAFE or through Distance Education - these courses will incur an extra cost.

Please note that PLC Armidale students must study the majority of their courses at PLC Armidale.

In Year 12 we also offer Extension subjects in:

- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Music





## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ✨

International students flourish at PLC Armidale. We have a long tradition of caring for and educating girls from many countries. Our school provides a safe and caring environment which fosters academic excellence and community engagement. Students from overseas are offered additional pastoral care and academic support which enables them to strive for independence and resilience.

### **Support For International Students**

Facilities in place to support the special needs of international students include:

- Orientation programs for new students prior to commencement of Term 1 of the school year.
- A meet and greet service at Armidale Regional Airport for arrivals and departures.
- Cultural and national group support may also be available through student groups associated with the University of New England.
- Recognition of, and provision for, special dietary needs in catering for boarders.
- Academic Support is available upon request, or where required.

For specific enrolment information, please refer to our website.



## SERVICE LEARNING & INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ✨

Service learning and international service opportunities are a signature feature of the College, and reflect our global approach to learning.

We seek to engage our girls in the global community through curricular and co-curricular tours, international exchanges, service learning and Chaplaincy tours. Through these programs, girls are encouraged to reach out to those in need of support - locally, nationally and internationally.

## BOARDING ✨

Boarding is at the heart of PLC Armidale and has been since the College's inception in 1887.

Our Boarders come from a range of geographical backgrounds - from all over New South Wales, interstate, and overseas, and flourish in the more personalised, boutique boarding experience at PLC Armidale.

Learning to live, eat, play and study together with girls from different family circumstances is a unique life experience. Not only does boarding build independence and strong friendships, it also develops resilience, tolerance, empathy and compassion. It prepares girls for life beyond school.

Our Boarders are supported in organising and balancing their commitments, from juggling timetables to homework, and co-curricular activities, not only by our dedicated and experienced staff but also by the many "boarding sisters" across the year groups. Like every PLC Armidale student, our Boarders are encouraged to have a go and make the most of the opportunities available at the College and in the New England community.

Our experienced and friendly Boarding House staff provide a home away from home, creating a safe and happy environment that nurtures a strong sense of family and community.

The physical location of the Boarding House and its close proximity to our Dining Room and Senior School, reflects the centrality of boarding to our College community as a whole.

We also offer a range of flexible boarding options, including full-time, weekly and casual.



a *boutique*  
boarding experience







## PASTORAL CARE AND CHAPLAINCY

At PLC Armidale, one of our core strengths is our practical, Faith-based and Positive Psychology-focused approach to Pastoral Care.

Our PC @ PLC program is based on the specific needs of each individual, year group, academic stage and our Guild System. Everyone works together to create and maintain a caring environment which encourages resourcefulness and resilience in all students, and fosters a sense of social justice. Within this environment, our students are nurtured to develop self-esteem and confidence, and to grow as individuals.

Positive Psychology is woven into every aspect of life at our College. At PLC Armidale we teach resilience, forgiveness and gratitude, and an appreciation of personal strengths and positive emotions through our Pastoral Care Program, PDHPE classes, on the sports field and through Outdoor Educational experiences. This message of positive reinforcement is embedded in every subject taught at the College, and in our Chapel services and Bible readings.

All our staff consciously teach positive values as we want our girls to be healthy, vibrant and optimistic individuals. We encourage our students to be intellectually curious and determined to succeed in all pursuits.



## STUDENT LEADERSHIP ✦

We nurture leadership skills in each student. Leadership opportunities are available throughout the school in a variety of capacities, including elected leadership roles, the Students' Representative Council, sporting teams and the Guild System.

At PLC Armidale, we prepare our students for success in life beyond school. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a hugely successful, internationally recognised program incorporating community service with personal endeavour.

The Award has been running at PLC Armidale for over ten years and is the fastest growing activity at the College. The Award is offered to our girls in Year 9 and above, who are 14 years and older.

PLC ARMIDALE  
COLLEGE | WANDERER



## CO-CURRICULAR ✨

PLC Armidale is more than just a school of consistent academic excellence. It is a place where girls are extended to grow and develop their own unique potential.

Our aim is to inspire learning, in and out of the classroom. So, we offer a diverse range of co-curricular activities across both the Junior and Senior School, where every girl has the opportunity to flourish.

Participation in these activities enable students to learn a new skill, discover and develop talents and interests, meet and develop friendships with students in all years.

Our co-curricular activities offered include:

- Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
- Speech & Drama
- Music
- Sport
- Cattle Team
- Art in the Afternoons





## MUSIC ✨

Musical excellence has long been synonymous with PLC Armidale.

Many of our talented graduates have been placed in the top 10% in the State for their HSC with many gaining selection to Conservatoriums of Music in Australia and around the world.

We believe it is important to encourage a student's interest in Music and the Arts, and so provide a diverse range of opportunities for our girls to explore their skills and talents. All students are encouraged to perform, compose and to listen.

Music is offered as a subject from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 and Music can be chosen as an Elective subject in Years 9 to 12.

Our College has a number of large and small instrumental ensembles as well as Choirs and smaller vocal ensembles. These include: Senior Orchestra, Senior String Orchestra, Junior and Senior String Quartets, and Recorder Consort.

Many of these ensembles and choirs rehearse outside of class time and are involved in a number of performances within the school and community each term, for example, Armidale Eisteddfod.

PLC Armidale also enjoys a very positive and mutually beneficial Community Partnership with the New England Conservatorium of Music (NECOM) which in turn benefits our students.



## SPORT ✨

Sport plays an important role in our College community, with high levels of participation across the whole College. We offer a comprehensive sporting program which caters for the beginner to the talented and from the social to the highly competitive. Our College teams compete in the various local sporting competitions in the region and take the opportunity to participate in other sporting initiatives from time to time. Sitting alongside the girls' participation in sport is the impressive school spirit and support of the PLC Armidale community which is evident at each game or match.

### **Sporting Pathways**

Through our membership to the Independent Girls' Schools Sports Association (IGSSA) and Independent Primary Schools' Heads Association (IPSHA), PLC Armidale girls have the opportunity to pursue higher levels of representation.

Sports offered include:

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Equestrian
- Fitness
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Indoor Hockey
- Netball
- Soccer (Football)
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Touch

Additional sports may also be introduced from time to time depending on demand.



## FACILITIES

PLC Armidale has been located on its current premises for over fifty years.

A Master Site Plan guides the continued development of the site and its buildings to offer modern indoor and outdoor facilities in an environmentally friendly, safe and tranquil setting of spacious grounds, gardens and native bushland.

Our facilities include:

- A dedicated Year 12 Study Centre.
- Two Library Resource Centres, one with seminar rooms and video conferencing facilities.
- Hospitality Centre boasting a state of the art commercial kitchen with adjacent classroom, kitchen garden and outdoor entertaining space.
- Astra Arts Centre incorporating the College Chapel and large foyer area suitable for major events.
- Sporting facilities including versatile indoor gymnasium, suitable for both sport and special events; 400m grass athletics track, six hard surface tennis courts, all used extensively by the College as well as community organisations and individuals.
- Health Care Centre located in one of the boarding houses, operated by a Registered Nurse.

### **Hire of College Facilities**

Some of our facilities are available for use by the community during weekends, school holiday periods, and at other times by negotiation for a nominal fee.



A photograph of two young women in an outdoor setting. The woman on the left is seen from the back, wearing a pink floral top and sunglasses in her hair. The woman on the right is smiling, wearing a green and white plaid shirt and a green baseball cap with a white logo. They appear to be at a social gathering, with a blue tray of food visible in the foreground.

## COMMUNITY

### **Alumni / Old Girls' Union**

Our Old Girls' Union conducts regular events such as annual reunions, as well as provides mentoring opportunities to current students. The Old Girls' Union also contributes to fundraising initiatives of the College and donates a number of annual prizes.

### **Foundation**

The PLC Armidale Foundation was established in 1999 and its main purpose is to provide ongoing financial support to the College through its fundraising endeavours for the provision of Scholarships and Facilities.

### **Parents & Friends Association**

Our P&F provides opportunities for parents, friends and families to interact socially as well as raise funds for educational resources at the College.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES\*

Due to the generosity of numerous donors in the PLC Armidale community, our College is able to offer a number of Scholarships and Bursaries to both prospective and current students.

Scholarships include:

- Academic
- Music
- Creative Arts
- All Rounder
- Boarding
- and others as determined from time to time by the College Principal

Bursaries are awarded on the basis of a family's financial need and are means tested annually.

Contact our Enrolments Manager or Business Manager for more information.

# HOW TO ENROL ✨

We welcome your interest in a place for your daughter at our College.

## **1. Enquiry**

To enquire about the possibility of your daughter enrolling at PLC Armidale, please contact our Enrolments Manager on 02 6770 1727, or email [enrolments@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au)

## **2. Information Pack**

After your initial enquiry, our Enrolments Manager will organise for an "Information Pack" to be posted to you.

The information provided will illustrate just some of the achievements of our girls and highlight some of the exciting opportunities for your daughter as she considers becoming part of our school family. We are interested in every girl reaching her true potential by providing a caring, connected educational experience.

## **3. College Tour**

The next step in the enrolment process is to come and experience PLC Armidale first hand. We invite you to tour our beautiful College at a time that is convenient for you.

We would take the opportunity to show you the modern facilities that we have to give you a greater understanding of the learning environment that your daughter will be immersed in. A tour of the Boarding house is also available for those families looking at boarding options.

## **4. Register for Enrolment**

To secure a place in your chosen year at PLC Armidale, you must "register" with the College. Registration involves the completion of the Registration Form and payment of the Registration fee. After submission of both the registration form and fee, a letter of acknowledgment is sent from the College.

## **5. Interview with our Principal and Experience Day**

An interview with Mrs Taylor and an optional experience day for your daughter is then scheduled.

## **6. Offer of Place**

A signed letter of offer will then be posted to you with the details of the forms required to commence enrolment.

## **7. Acceptance of Offer and Completion of Enrolment Forms**

Once the offer is accepted and enrolment forms are signed and returned, your daughter is ready to commence her educational journey at PLC Armidale.





Girls *flourish* <sup>\*</sup>  
at PLC Armidale



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In alliance with **PLC SYDNEY**

