



Loreto College

Coorparoo



Prospectus
PROSPECTUS

Felicity

Freedom

Sincerity

Verity

Justice

Principal's Welcome



It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to a Loreto Coorparoo education.

Established in 1928, Loreto College Coorparoo is an independent Catholic secondary school for girls. Founded by the Sisters of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), also known as the Loreto Sisters, Loreto Coorparoo is one of more than 150 Loreto schools throughout the world.

Our founder, Mary Ward, made the prophetic statement, "*women in time to come will do much.*" This is integral to the Loreto philosophy whereby we aim to liberate, motivate and empower girls. Mary Ward was convinced that the world needed women who were informed, confident and spiritually mature. Her compelling story encourages our students to have self-belief as women, engenders hope and courage and promotes their capacity to make a difference for good in the world.

As experts in girls' education, staff at Loreto Coorparoo incorporate the ethos of our 400 year old tradition with innovative pedagogy and technologies to support girls toward personal excellence.

Our role as a school community is to work in partnership in the formation of resilient and confident young women of faith who have the courage to be themselves.

Give them a sense of greatness of a woman's mission.

- Mother Gonzaga Barry



Ethos

Loreto College Coorparoo is committed to the realisation of Mary Ward's vision. A love of Jesus and dedication to the Gospel values underpin learning and community wellbeing.

Inspired by the Mary Ward story, Loreto is a place where young women are inspired to find God's presence in the ordinary; to seek to embrace each moment and to do so with grateful hearts. This requires the awareness of the simple, ordinary moments of life and to see the holiness that exists in all of life and creation. The young women who are educated at Loreto are called to be 'seekers of truth and doers of justice' exerting a lasting influence on their world. They are respectful, caring, resilient, socially responsible women with a sense of place in the world.

At Loreto Coorparoo, we are guided by these virtues:

Felicity – to be people of joy, optimism, hope and laughter

Freedom – to act out of love not fear; to be inwardly free to refer all things to God

Sincerity – to be such as we appear and appear such as we are

Verity – to seek and find the truth about ourselves and God; to do what we have to do well

Justice – to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God



Be such as you appear and appear such as you are. – Mary Ward

Faith



Sharing the Christian faith, in the Catholic tradition, is central to the purpose of Loreto College Coorparoo. College life is filled with spiritual and faith development opportunities including liturgical celebrations, class prayer, reflection times and retreats.

Girls are encouraged to be active members of service groups and partake in justice activities such as St Vincent de Paul Society, Mary Ward International and Caritas. The College also conducts immersion experiences to developing communities locally, nationally and internationally.

Religious literacy and understanding is promoted through the curriculum. Girls are taught to be critical thinkers, to be inquisitive and to be change agents. These qualities help develop the capacity to respond to the demands of the world with courage and authenticity.



Serve God with great love and liberty of mind. - Mary Ward

Curriculum



The Loreto curriculum is characterised by the commitment to academic achievement focused on the individual. Academic excellence is valued and a love of learning is nurtured. There is a strong emphasis on critical thinking and student engagement.

Loreto staff use evidence-based pedagogies supported by technologies, flexible learning spaces and an innovative focus. From Years 7 to 9, students enjoy a balanced curriculum that caters for core learning areas as well as providing electives, which challenge our students across the arts, technologies and languages. The curriculum is designed to facilitate the learning pathways of individual learners with programs embracing extension, enrichment and opportunities for consolidation. In Years 10 to 12, a range of subjects which facilitate rich, flexible and engaging learning pathways have been designed to suit the needs and ambitions of the students beyond Year 12.

Consistently, each year over 98% of eligible students successfully secure tertiary placements at the conclusion of Year 12.

Aim at something excellent, our life is largely influenced by what we aim at. - Mother Gonzaga Barry

At the heart of the **LORETO COLLEGE TEACHING AND LEARNING FRAMEWORK** is Mary Ward's belief that the education of girls must be congruent to the needs of the times.



HOLISTIC

We nurture each individual so they may grow spiritually, cognitively, emotionally and socially because we prioritise developing the 'whole' person. Integral to this is the recognition that health and well-being are fundamental to learning. We provide opportunities for individuals to flourish; through realising potential, feeling valued and connected, and contributing to the Loreto community.

EFFECT

We are engaged in our teaching and learning through carefully planned lessons using research-based strategies proven to have the highest effect on student improvement. We interpret data and measure the impact of our strategies to set and refine our personal learning goals. We are empowered to put our learning into action.

ATTITUDE

We are optimistic about our learning and future because we have a growth mindset. We are equipped with skills and strategies to persevere, knowing that setbacks make us stronger and develop resilience. We show courage when faced with challenges and are not afraid to take risks or fail. We apply feedback gained from our past experiences in the belief that it will lead to success.

REACH

Our learning experiences target areas for growth; recognising that we need to stretch ourselves to achieve our aspirations. We are flexible, striving for accuracy and excellence. We seek relevant learning opportunities. We celebrate individual and collective improvement. We cultivate relationships and build networks; learning in collaboration, supporting each other.

THINKING

We know that proficiency in literacy, numeracy and reading are the foundation to learning. We develop higher-order thinking by knowing which cognitions are required for specific learning. With disciplined practice and application, our metacognition becomes habitual and we extend our ability to think creatively and critically.

Leadership

Throughout their schooling at Loreto Coorparoo, students are educated about the genuine nature of leadership. They are provided with opportunities to develop their leadership skills and capacity.

With a leadership style focused on service, students take on increasing levels of responsibility across a variety of areas including music, sport, debating, clubs and social justice activities.

As an all girls' school, students have equal opportunity to experience authentic leadership and to have a voice in the school community. With each Year 12 student developing their leadership capacity through Council membership, younger students have the opportunity to see strong and effective female role models every day within the Loreto community and beyond.

...the more torches lit from it, the more light we have
- Mother Gonzaga Barry



Pastoral Care



Our focus is providing an environment that develops personal, academic, social and spiritual growth.

Year Coordinators work with the homeroom teachers, College Counsellors and Senior Leaders to monitor the wellbeing of students. A focus on community helps support students develop a sense of belonging and connectedness.

Students are encouraged to treat each person with courtesy and respect. There are many opportunities for students to contribute, to become involved and to be affirmed for their efforts and achievements. It is our aim that each girl feels valued and connected within the school community, free to discover and express her individual identity.



If anyone gives you trouble, meet them with friendly words, for so you will soften both yourself and them. - Mary Ward

Co-Curricular Activities

All students are encouraged to participate in the co-curricular program which provides opportunities in a wide range of cultural, artistic, sporting and service areas.

Students are presented with opportunities to explore culture and the arts through a vibrant instrumental and choral program, debating, public speaking, drama, chess and art clubs and biennial musicals. Private music tuition is also available.

Loreto Coorparoo has a strong sporting tradition. Students can pursue their interests in a range of competitive individual and team sports as well as activities promoting health and fitness.

Student service organisations are involved in fundraising and other service activities at school, community and international levels, including Mary Ward International and the Loreto Sisters' international justice and development program.



*Do not bury your talents which God lent you to be spent in service.
- Mary Ward*



Community



As a community united in the spirit of Mary Ward, we strive together to make our ideals our reality. We aim to do good and do it well. We are a community of learning, love and laughter; a community of compassion, care and service; a community of God.

Parents are active participants in the life of the College. They support, encourage and contribute in many ways. Funds raised by the Parents and Friends' Association and sub-groups, Sports Support Group and Music Support Group, assist with facilities improvements and co-curricular programs. Parents are a welcome presence at school events and special celebrations. As generous volunteers, their involvement is valued and appreciated.

The Past Pupils' Association has a strong membership that spans the decades. Past pupils gather regularly to celebrate reunions and other special events. They also generously support the bursary program for families in need.

The School Board governs the school as a member of Loreto Ministries Limited, Australia and South-East Asia. It is charged with the responsibilities of maintaining the Mary Ward ethos, strategic master planning, financial management and facilities development.



History

The educational vision of Loreto schools springs from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When Mary Ward founded the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) in 1609, she recognised the critical difference that education could make to her troubled world, especially through the care and development of faith.

Six Loreto Sisters led by the Mother Provincial arrived in Brisbane to establish a convent at "Kemendine" on Cavendish Road. Built in 1889, the impressive old house stood proudly on a commanding hillside site overlooking the lush green rolling hills of Coorparoo. The Deshon family lived here for almost 40 years before the property was sold. In February 1928, the Sisters opened their school in the old "Kemendine" home with eight pupils.

Loreto Coorparoo has a unique and interesting part of its capital development story – it once won the "Golden Casket". This was in the early days, which coincided with the world-wide depression. With the money from the windfall of the Casket ticket – given by a Past Pupil from South Australia – the first stage of a new two storey building began in 1930 to house a boarding kitchen, dining room and five classrooms. This building was completed in 1933 with the addition of a third floor. Today it is known as the Casket Building.

In 1942, with the threat of invasion by the Japanese from the north during World War II, nuns and boarders were evacuated to a disused grammar school at Glen Innes, NSW where the school remained for two years. During these years Loreto Convent was used as a convalescent home for Australian Servicemen. The return of the school to Cavendish Road in 1944 meant much hardship and considerable readjustment after the wartime occupation by the troops.

During the 1970s there were a number of significant changes that took place at Loreto: the phasing out of the Junior School, the presence of Loreto Boys took place from 1972 to 1977 and the boarding school closed in 1979. The secondary school expanded to three streams and the original Deshon home was demolished due to rotting timber supports and floorboards. In 1974 to 1987, the Loreto Sisters proudly led the primary school of the Mount Carmel parish and to this day we still have a strong connection.





Eloise Gray, Year 8

'Women in time to come will do much' - Mary Ward



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