Mary MacKillop College is a flourishing and enthusiastic community energised by the educational vision of Mary MacKillop.
Welcome

I trust that our prospectus opens a window into the rich and vibrant life of Mary MacKillop College. Many people have suggested to me that our College is a “hidden gem”, tucked away behind Portrush Road in a quiet leafy street.

Our College is small in terms of student numbers and that enables strong and enduring relationships to be developed quickly between staff and students. These quality relationships go hand in hand with quality teaching and learning. Our girls feel at home and are very much part of the College community.

The College has a strong connection with the Sisters of St Joseph and we honour these historical connections and look to the future with hope and a sense of purpose to continually develop a faith filled community inspired by the service of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Australia’s first saint.

Our College has adopted the motto “Know more, Do more, Be more” which assists staff and students focus on what we are aiming to achieve at Mary MacKillop College. Young women skilled and knowledgeable, active in their learning and co-constructors of new knowledge, open to challenging opportunities, and a sense of service and spirituality inspired by our Josephite tradition.

Mary MacKillop was always a teacher and the education of children came first. At Mary MacKillop College students are at the heart of the learning and everything we do supports the learning of students.

We respect and celebrate the uniqueness of each young woman and do this within a caring, supportive, challenging and contemporary environment.

We are a Catholic College with a diverse student community, of different cultures and faith traditions, open to all in the spirit of Mary MacKillop, a woman of courage and resourcefulness, a woman for our times.

I invite you to discover our “hidden gem” through our prospectus and by visiting the College during our Open Day or College tours.

Kath McGuigan
Principal
Why a Girls’ School?

The following benefits have been identified by the Alliance of Girls’ Schools:

• An all girls school can create an atmosphere that counters the negative influence of mass media and its often troubling depictions of women and girls.

• Girls at girls’ schools enjoy not only equal opportunity, they enjoy every opportunity.

• Girls are freer to participate in class discussions, without being dominated by boys.

• Girls don’t have to live up to expectations that they must be nice, quiet, non-athletic and passive.

• Girls prefer written texts and tend to be more interested in the emotional workings of literary characters.

• Most girls prefer fiction and enjoy learning through narrative, with context to their learning.

• In relationships, girls solve issues through dialogue.

• Girls hear better and are more sensitive to angry, loud voices.

They want to know why Beethoven composed a certain piece and where he was when he wrote it.

Teaching girls using an approach which recognises these gender differences enables girls to live up to their full potential and be comfortable being themselves.

We are a member of the ‘Alliance of Girls’ Schools’ which is an organisation that is committed to promoting the benefits of single-sex schools for girls. We encourage you to visit their website to find out more about the benefits of girls’ schools at www.agsa.org.au.
Our History

Mary MacKillop lived and worked at Kensington for many years and she opened the first school here in 1872. The College began in the shadow of World War II in 1944 when secondary students, who had previously been taught at various Parish schools run by the Sisters of St Joseph, were brought together in Queen Street, Norwood.

In the first year 100 students were enrolled in classes from First Year to Leaving Honours. The school was known as St Joseph’s Higher Primary.

In 1950 the school moved to Bridge Street where a small building had served as the Parish school. During the 1950s a hall was hired in High Street to cater for the rapidly increasing numbers. This led to a building project undertaken by the Sisters of St Joseph and in 1963, the school, which had been renamed St Joseph’s High School moved into the Phillips Street site with an enrolment of 200 girls.

During the 1960s student numbers increased, lay people joined the teaching staff and Sister Oliver remained as Principal, making a unique and inestimable contribution to the growth and spirit of the school. In 1970, Sister Oliver’s last year as Principal, the name was changed to “Mary MacKillop College”.

Since its humble beginnings the College has continued to embrace students from all walks of life and educate them in the true spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. A very real and precious connection has been maintained with the Sisters and our girls enjoy classes in a modern, well-resourced, comfortable environment while having access to the Chapel and Convent grounds where Mary herself lived and worked to promote educational opportunities for girls.
Our Faith

The College embodies her principles and her spirit in every aspect of its life – situated as we are in the very shadows of her chapel and the original Mother house here in Adelaide. That connection also informs and guides our practices and our curriculum. Mary’s often quoted saying, “In all things love”, remains at the forefront of our students’ awareness of themselves as members of the Josephite community, embracing the spirit of Mary and engaging the world.

In Masses, chapel assemblies, classroom pastoral care and social justice projects, the religious dimension of the College draws its life from the living heart of Australia’s pioneering founder of the Josephite order and its tradition of service to others.

You will find this spirit in the faces of our young women as they grow in their understanding of the rich promise that is their living faith, their ever-expanding awareness of the potential of their own contribution to the world and to bringing God’s love to the place and time in which they live.

At Mary MacKillop College the invitation to take part in this faith experience is offered on a daily basis and our reputation as a faith-filled community rests on the willing and generous response our girls give to this invitation.
Our Pastoral Care

At Mary MacKillop College our touchstone, in pastorally caring for our students, is the charism and ethos of Mary MacKillop, who strived to consistently present the face of Christ to all, whatever their socio-economic background, position or creed.

Through the Pastoral Care Program, students learn how to care for themselves and others, how to exercise personal responsibility and how to empower themselves to take control of their own learning and to plan for a productive future.

Pastoral Care Teachers are integral to the life of the College community and care for the well-being of students in their Pastoral Care Class. This is done by respecting each student as an individual, by encouraging them, praising them, and showing interest in their progress and the achievement of their potential. Nurturing well-being includes spiritual and emotional well-being, as well as academic success.

As teachers for student well-being, we:
• foster concern for each other, and an understanding of justice and the importance of relationships
• foster leadership and faith formation opportunities
• are accessible to students and approachable
• respond to student concerns
• identify problems and seek support from providers in the school community

The school Counsellor also works closely with the students and will access outside support agencies if required.

• familiarise students with school policies and with leadership and administrative roles in the school. This will empower them to make effective, responsible choices and to better understand the meaning of being part of a community.
• maintain an ongoing contact with parents, consistent with our family-school partnerships policy, to share information, to share concerns, to praise and acknowledge achievements, and to foster our school as a place of welcome.
Our Teaching & Learning

As part of our College’s Strategic Plan, we aim to develop a curriculum that is current and relevant to student needs and is responsive to changes and developments in society. Our broad curriculum and our high expectations of students encourages them to become self-directed and lifelong learners. The teaching and learning program aims to improve the student’s ability to learn and to give them an opportunity to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do in a range of assessment conditions. Our programs are designed to develop student confidence, knowledge, skills and capabilities relevant for an increasingly globalised and electronic society.

Through the Curriculum Enrichment Program, we strive to engage students identified as gifted and talented or as high achievers, students with specific talents or those with special interests in a variety of activities both at the College and off campus. We are committed to promoting the inclusion of students with disabilities and learning difficulties. All students with special needs are educated within the mainstream class and are provided with additional support and accommodations within the classroom and when necessary in the Learning Centre. All teaching and non-teaching staff are advocates for equality and inclusion for those students who experience difficulties in the educational and social sphere.

Mary MacKillop College provides excellence in a contemporary curriculum that equips girls with the necessary skills to meet the challenges of their future.
Our Co-Curricular

At Mary MacKillop College we strive to give our girls every opportunity to develop academically, spiritually and socially.

A comprehensive range of activities is provided to allow girls to participate and achieve success in sport, athletics, music, debating, public speaking, national subject competitions, photography, drama, dance and the College Book Club.

Leadership opportunities are provided through:

- College Captains
- Prefects
- Social Justice Captains
- Music Captains
- Sports Captains
- Student Representative Council
- Peer Support Leaders.

The Student Leaders bring much life to the College as visible role models for other students, they promote harmony within the College community and maintain the charism of Mary MacKillop.
Our Community

The vibrant Parents and Friends Association works actively to support the College through coordinating functions and fundraising ventures, enhancing student opportunities and the learning environment for our young women.

Family members assist in our canteen and we have developed strong partnerships with the wider community.

Graduates, instilled with a sense of belonging to the College community, support the Mary MacKillop College Old Scholars Association which promotes an ongoing relationship through dedicated functions and charity events.

Mary MacKillop College is a thriving and enthusiastic community of staff, parents and students energised by the educational vision of Mary MacKillop.
“Mary MacKillop College is filled with friendly staff and students. I enjoy being part of this wonderful school community.”

Year 8 Student

“Since joining Mary MacKillop College I have learned what makes a girls’ school unique: laughter, confidence, potential. I am particularly interested in the middle years of learning and development, taking delight in watching girls transform into young women of clarity and conviction.”

Helen Steele, Deputy Principal

“How to find us

Mary MacKillop College

Teaching young women to become creative and collaborative learners who understand their place in the world is a privilege and a pleasure. My aim is to lead teachers and learners in this school and from this develop an educational community of dedicated life-long learners.”

Cathy Swain, Director of Curriculum
A Catholic Secondary College for girls, educating in the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

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Know more. Do more. Be more.