



Mercedes College History

In September 1845 seven young Mercy Sisters left their convent in Dublin and sailed to the colony of Western Australia. Under the direction of Sister M. Ursula Frayne they began teaching at the present site at Victoria Square in August 1846, having first established a school in February of that year in a rented cottage on St Georges Terrace. For many years two schools operated on the site. In 1967 St Joseph's and Our Lady's College joined to become one school, **Mercedes College**.



Mercedes College
More than 160 Years of Catholic Education at Victoria Square



Year 7

Giving Girls a Head Start



Our vision is centred on God.
Embracing the spirit of Catherine McAuley.
Calling us to listen and discern the needs of our time.
Empowering our community to respond in faith
as people of justice and mercy.

Giving girls a head start

Pastoral Care

Mercedes runs a year based pastoral care system, which allows for a smaller grouping of girls and a 'school within a school' where friendships and support are fostered. The Year coordinator has special responsibility for the group and is an initial point for parent contact if there are any matters needing attention. The year group is divided into homerooms and each homeroom in lower school has two teachers who share the duties. Homeroom starts each morning at 8.25. Here notices are read, administrative tasks are handled, organisation for year activities takes place, letters from parents are received, rapport with the teacher is built and student involvement in school activities is monitored.

Peer Support

Year 11 girls are appointed as 'big sisters' to the year 7 girls, a buddy system of peer support.

House system

There are four houses and these function to foster belonging. Houses are used for competitions in drama, dance, film, chess, academics, choir and sport. These competitions give the girls opportunities to use their talents and provide leadership opportunities.

Curriculum

The Year 7 curriculum will aim to stimulate the girls' love of learning. It will focus on the five key areas of Religious Education, English, Science, Society and Environment and Mathematics plus Languages, Information Technology and Physical Education/Health. In addition the girls will be provided with an opportunity to study Music, Art and Craft, Drama and Home Economics and whet their appetite for further learning. Literacy is a major focus across all learning areas.

Timetable

There are 31 periods a week.

English and Mathematics will get 5 periods a week, a lesson a day, whilst Society and Environment, Religious Education and Science will have three periods each. Languages (French or Italian) and Information Technology/ Research Skills will each have two periods. Music, Art and Craft, Drama and Home Economics have a combined total of four periods a week. There will be one extended period a week of Pastoral Care.

Co curricular

Many clubs and activities exist to widen the opportunities for students including debating, Speech and Drama, netball, Tournament of Minds, Book Club and chess.

Celebrations

Mercy Day in September is always a wonderful day of whole school celebration. The annual fundraising Frog Jog at the end of Term 2 is a day of exercise and team building. The Presentation Evening in Term 4 is a highlight. A Fete is held every two years and is an opportunity for parents to be involved.



Faith and Spiritual Formation

Confirmation

A program for Confirmation preparation will be provided in Year 7.

Class Masses

Each homeroom group has one Mass a year for which they prepare music, readings and prayers. Mass takes place every Wednesday before school. Parents are always welcome to join the celebration, along with other students and many staff. Girls' attendance at their own class Mass is compulsory.

Christian Service Learning

Girls learn about themselves and the benefits of serving others in Christian Service Learning. In the first years, students work for their family and in later years can also work at school, parish and community levels.

Arts

We have a dynamic and inspirational Arts program with a wide range of creative opportunities. Our Drama program includes a yearly musical, House Dance and House Drama. Art provides the students with opportunities to exhibit their work in exhibitions and competitions and to develop critical thinking, art appreciation and practical skills. Media gives girls the opportunity to be involved in the production of the Presentation Evening video, MCfm radio station, and the House Film Festival. Music provides a wide range of instrumental opportunities and ensembles. The class music elective allows the girls to develop their music theory skills together with vocal and instrumental work. Music lessons for individuals and groups are available for a fee. Various choirs and ensembles run before or after school and perform at College events.



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