



MELBOURNE  
GIRLS GRAMMAR  
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL

# BOARDING

# WELCOME

## VISION

Melbourne Girls Grammar aspires to develop ethical women of action. Through a focus on learning, research, and innovation, we will be recognised by our own community, the national and international community as a leading school in girls' education.

## MISSION

In the pursuit of our vision, Melbourne Girls Grammar is committed to the provision of an exceptional education for girls with an emphasis on strong Christian values, high expectations, creativity, and academic challenge.

Within a supportive and positive learning environment, girls will discover their passion and build their capacities for action and influence.

## VALUES

In support of our mission, Melbourne Girls Grammar's values are:

- Integrity
- Compassion
- Courage
- Self-discipline

“

To educate is to make an intervention into the lives of others. When we intervene, we do so with certain assumptions about the value of what we are doing and why. Building students' capacity for future readiness is a moral-ethical learning endeavour and one that cannot be left to chance.

To achieve this, Melbourne Girls Grammar promotes a progressive, contemporary community of practice committed to providing personalised high-quality curriculum, wellbeing and co-curricular programs that enable lifelong learning for every student.

We are future focused and committed to inspiring our Grammarians and equipping them with the values, knowledge and skills to be ready to make their mark on the world.

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your family to Melbourne Girls Grammar.

“

Our Grammarians gain a high level of independence living in the Boarding House of Melbourne Girls Grammar. Being personally accountable instils a sense of confidence in each girl. Every new boarder is allocated a 'buddy' to support them in the transition to boarding house living. As well as a living environment, our dedicated boarding staff ensure the learning doesn't stop when the school bell sounds. They are instrumental in providing tutoring services for all residents and ensure that out-of-hours study time is both effective and fruitful.



Dr Toni E. Meath  
Principal



Amanda Haggie  
Director of Boarding

# OUR HISTORY



Melbourne Girls Grammar has a rich history spanning 130 years. Since its opening in 1893 by Emily Hensley and Alice Taylor, the School has gone from strength to strength. Built in the 1920s, the Boarding House has distinct architectural features from the era including a terrazzo staircase with stylish balustrade. It has continued to be a place where families have sent their girls for a well-rounded education. It is an educational community characterised by academic rigour, a commitment to the values and ethos of the School, and from which girls graduate and progress to fine careers in a range of diverse areas.

Nestled atop the Anderson Street hill in one of Melbourne's most prestigious suburbs, the School has all the amenities it needs either contained within its iconic red brick walls or minutes away. This includes Melbourne's finest galleries, museums and theatres, world-renowned sports complexes including the Australian Tennis centre — home to the Australian Open — and the beautiful plantings and ornamental lake of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the mighty Yarra River.



**LEFT**  
*Phelia Grimwade House and the portraits of Misses Emily Hensley and Alice Taylor, our first headmistresses.*

**RIGHT**  
*View of the Melbourne Girls Grammar Boarding House.*



# OUR CULTURE

The Boarding House culture, and indeed that of Melbourne Girls Grammar, is about celebrating diversity and inclusion. Our boarding house is comprised of girls from local, regional, rural and in some cases, remote parts of Australia as well as students from a number of continents across the globe. The internationalism of the residents enables all students to build an awareness and understanding of different cultures and backgrounds as well as connecting with the personalities and interests of our truly global community.

## SUPPORTING YOUR DAUGHTER'S TRANSITION

From the time your daughter arrives at Melbourne Girls Grammar as a boarder, she will, with support from the residential team and the Director of Boarding, focus on getting to know the other boarders. She will build strong bonds with her extended boarding family; these connections will last a lifetime based on shared experiences.

The boarding house caters for up to 90 students from within Australia and Internationally. All boarders share a sense of living in a home away from home and learn how to develop the skills and capabilities needed to live independently and how to share their 'home' with others.

## DEVELOPING A SENSE OF BELONGING

The Director of Boarding, Amanda Haggie, believes that a sense of belonging is essential to ensuring that all students feel supported. The culture is what will enable your daughter achieve her best while at MGGS. She will build confidence and the ability to transition to life beyond school, wherever that may take her. The Boarding House team ensures that every resident has a great experience that extends their education and their personal development.

*“ When considering living, and studying, away from home, most would add to their wish list: safety; comfort; security; familiarity; friendship; and a diversity of activities. The Melbourne Girls Grammar Boarding House offers all that and more!*

AMANDA HAGGIE | DIRECTOR OF BOARDING





# LEARNING AT ITS BEST

When your daughter enters Melbourne Girls Grammar, she is entering an educational community that is focused on academic application and preparing for her future. The world is rapidly changing and we know that to be competitive in this new world, graduates need to have the capacity to self manage, adapt and understand how to work collaboratively. Living in the Boarding House, your daughter will learn the importance of individual strengths and celebrate diversity of thinking, beliefs and culture.

In the classroom, she will learn how to optimise her learning experiences, identify how she learns best and what mechanisms she needs to put in place with the guidance of academic and wellbeing coaches to achieve her best.

We know from research that the future will be characterised by the ability to know how to acquire information, how to harness technology as an enabler for enterprise and productivity and, importantly, how to work with others collaboratively.

At MGGGS, the course structure is designed to build knowledge, skills and competencies essential for the 2030 graduate. From strong foundational learning in Years 7-9, your daughter will increasingly be able to elect to study courses of specific interest and that refine her understanding of her personal strengths and interests. She will have access to academic coaches to either extend her learning or bridge gaps in her understanding.

## DEVELOPING INDEPENDANCE

Expanding on the independence being cultivated while living away from home, she will also be supported to build her independence and agency in relation to her academic studies.

One of the characteristics of a MGGGS graduate is their ability to self manage, take calculated risks, be resilient, but also to have the courage to challenge the status quo and stretch and grow to be the very best they can be.

With the support of wellbeing coaches and one-on-one fortnightly sessions from Year 9, our Grammarians learn how to seek out help from others and set goals that will give them the best opportunity to fulfill their career ambitions.

We aim to develop confident, courageous young women who have the capacity to articulate ideas, advocate for those less fortunate and leave MGGGS with the desire to keep learning.



# A FOCUS ON ROUTINE

Your daughter's day will commence around 7.30am, when all boarders are expected to rise and get ready for the new school day. Breakfast is served in the boarders' dining room and can consist of a cooked meal or a more continental style of breakfast.

School commences at 8.30am so students don't have time to linger. Rather, they need to dress ready for the rigours of a day of focused learning and be prepared with study materials, a charged laptop and relevant changes of clothes to participate in classes such as dance, exercise or sport.

## MEALS

Recess and lunch are times when your daughter will come back to the dining room to eat meals with her fellow boarders. Again, a range of options are provided which support different dietary requirements but also choice such as the salad bar, sandwiches or hot food.

The academic day concludes at 3.30pm on most days and then your daughter has the option to participate in team sport, a fitness program or simply relax back in the Boarding House with friends. Dinner is served at 6.00pm, again offering a plethora of choice. There is a team of boarders who consider the types of meals offered and canvas the preferences of the residents to ensure that different types of food is tried by the residents such as curries, pasta, and stir fries to name a few.

## PREP TIME AND STUDY

After dinner is prep time and our younger boarders have supervised study time in the library where they also have access to academic tutors who can assist with English, Mathematics or other study areas in a one-on-one context. This is a great opportunity to build confidence or close gaps that may exist. It also builds a routine and focus to completing out-of-class work and ensuring that assignments and other requirements are completed in a timely manner. The ability to develop self management skills early makes it easier to manage commitments in later years at Melbourne Girls Grammar such as VCE studies or balancing study and interests.

Contacting home is also important and your daughter will be encouraged to use personal time to check in with home and parents. Screen, or device time, however, is restricted and residents all use the charging docks to remove access to devices by 9.00pm.

Lights out is at 9.30pm, giving your daughter the opportunity to develop a consistent sleep pattern. After a routine day, filled with clear times for activities, your daughter will awake ready for the next day refreshed and energised.



# LIVING IN OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Your daughter will be allocated, depending on the year level she is in, to a room with other girls her age. Students in Year 7 to 9 begin in either 3 or 4 bedroom rooms. Nearby are shared modern and newly renovated bathrooms, as well as a lounge room and kitchen area where snacks can be cooked up or cups of warm cocoa, or other beverage, made. These relaxation spaces have comfortable couches, cushions, rugs and beanbags so that residents can wind down after a day at school. Games and activity spaces are also provided.

Each term, girls are rotated into new bedrooms. This is to enable them to meet others in their year group and develop friendships. It also fosters empathy for others in the Boarding House and an awareness of others, interests, habits and preferences. This assists in later years when students share rooms with one other student (Year 10 and 11) until Year 12 when all students get a single room.

As the number of girls sharing a room reduces, there is an increase in amenities including a desk/work area, and shelving. Your daughter will be encouraged to bring her own personalised touches to decorate and make her space her own. Girls often choose brightly coloured cushions, rugs, scatter some toys, install a reading lamp and add greenery and photos.

## LEARNING RESPONSIBILITY

Other facilities include the device room where girls charge their phones and devices at night, well away from their rooms to shut off screen time and reduce the reliance on always being connected. Laundry facilities including washing machines, dryers and ironing boards are studded throughout the three level house.

## A PLACE LIKE HOME

The Director of Boarding has her office at the front of the House and welcomes residents home after their day at school, asking about the things they did and encouraging conversations about both the fun things and any challenges.

The Boarding House is located in the centre of the Merton Hall campus so it is close to everything including the boarders' dining hall, school library and the Artemis Centre — our dedicated sport and fitness centre. Families and residents remain confident of the safety of each resident due to the need to access the Boarding House with a personalised swipe card. Residential staff live in the Boarding House overnight, are at reception throughout the day and manage with health staff the health centre which is also on site.

A notice board in the entrance foyer provides up to date information and highlights the planned activities for the upcoming weekend.

# BEING INVOLVED

There are so many activities at MGGs that your daughter can get involved in. One of the many benefits of living on campus is that you have access to so many facilities, sporting opportunities, ensemble groups and clubs.

For many, the travel to and from school can be arduous, but for our boarders, everything is within walking distance. The Artemis Sport and Wellbeing Centre offers a swimming pool, gym, yoga and pilates, team (sports) zone and access to physiology coaches to assist in providing a fitness program designed to address individual needs.

## GSV SPORT

GSV sport training and matches run each week with myriad sports on offer. Girls are encouraged to try new things, commit to activity each day and maximise the opportunity to build a mind of 'fit for life'. We are spoiled by the proximity to the Tan track, as well as a weekend netball competition in Richmond (the next suburb).

If your daughter likes the idea of rowing, buses collect our boarding rowers each morning in the season to get them to the Yarra River boat shed for training. After the rigour of a good workout in the early light of day, she will return in time to prep for school and eat a hearty 'brekkie'.

## THE PERFORMING ARTS

For those more interested in performing arts, there are choirs, orchestra, ensemble groups and individual instrumental lessons available. Pianos are available for practice sessions, and the joy of performing in some of Melbourne's best venues is part of the experience.

Drama and dance at MGGs gets a real workout each year with opportunities to join ensemble casts, musical choruses or take a lead role, or get involved in backstage or lighting. Being part of a production team is quite magical as, through collaboration and guidance from experts, our Grammarians engage in the creative process and bring a script and score to life.

These are only some of the opportunities — many more exist to tap into public speaking and debating, chess, eSports, dance classes, art club and the list goes on.

One thing we know for certain is that if your daughter gets involved in life at school, she will extend her friendships, bridging out to met day girls and finding people who share a love of the things she does.





# ACTIVITIES BEYOND SCHOOL

Weekends are times to relax, catch up on homework and assignments and enjoy the many cultural, sporting and outdoor recreational activities that our vibrant cosmopolitan city has to offer.

Melbourne Girls Grammar's location means that there is much to explore. We are walking distance to the MCG for boarders interested in football, the NGV for those interested in the visual arts, and minutes away to eateries and shops in the CBD and more closely the Domain and Toorak Road and Chapel Streets. The Royal Botanic Gardens offers a quiet refuge to the hustle and bustle of the school week, while the Yarra River provides bike and walking tracks for some recreational pursuits. Older students have the ability to register time away from the Boarding House, while our younger boarders are offered group activities such as going to the beach, Luna Park, movies and sporting and cultural events.

Information is provided in advance so your daughter is able to sign up for activities and plan her weekend accordingly.

## TERM BREAKS

During term breaks, we find out the majority of our boarders heading home for time with family and friends. The opportunity to go back home can never be underestimated and your daughter will be encouraged to consider whether to invite a friend home or to spend time holidaying elsewhere with your family.

Ultimately, we encourage our boarders to engage in a breadth of activities to maximise the opportunities afforded by living in South Yarra.

The experience of living in the inner suburbs of Melbourne in a safe and secure environment cannot be underestimated.





# COMMUNITY

The need to belong is something we all have in common. At MGGS we believe one's sense of belonging emerges from the connections we make.

## A SENSE OF BELONGING

In his book, *The Art of Belonging*, social researcher and author Hugh Mackay describes a 'good life' as one lived at the heart of a thriving community, among people we trust and within an environment of mutual respect. At Merton Hall we strive to create a community calendar and schedule of events that enables connections between families and the School to flourish.

## STAYING INFORMED

Our Parents Association works closely with the School to encourage interaction and connection. Families are invited to actively participate in many and varied ways, from community breakfasts to informal gatherings. eVI is our online parent portal. All parents have access to a parent homepage for their daughter's year level, as well as access to the weekly Parent newsletter, Messenger, Year Group updates, the School calendar, and parent directories.

## GETTING INVOLVED

There are also many ways to get involved in the School by volunteering, becoming a member of the boarding auxilliary supporting your daughter at school or boarding events, engaging with staff to support her learning and living away from home. We would encourage you to get involved in the philanthropic culture of the School through Annual Giving or special fundraising initiatives and campaigns. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our community. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to get in contact with our Enrolments team, [enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au) or calling the team on (+613) 9862 9200. Our website [mggs.vic.edu.au](http://mggs.vic.edu.au) has valuable information about our School and our programs while our social media channels provide live coverage of activities involving our Grammarians.

## STAY CONNECTED VIA OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



Twitter | @MGGS\_SouthYarra



Instagram | melbournegirlsgrammar



Facebook | Search "Melbourne Girls Grammar"



**MELBOURNE**  
**GIRLS GRAMMAR**  
AN ANGLICAN SCHOOL

MELBOURNE GIRLS GRAMMAR  
86 Anderson Street  
South Yarra VIC 3141

- St Hilda's – Years 7-8
- Senior Years – Years 9-12
- Boarding –Year 7-12

+61 3 9862 9200  
[enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au)

**[mggs.vic.edu.au](http://mggs.vic.edu.au)**

ABN 81 116 806 163  
CRICOS Provider Code: 00322D