



**St Vincent's College** Potts Point

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PROSPECTUS



St Vincent's College is a dynamic learning community which cherishes its Catholic heritage. The College fosters creativity, discernment and leadership in the development of students to be **courageous women of action**.

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GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT

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HOPE

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JUSTICE

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RESPECT

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SERVICE OF THE POOR

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Inspired by the traditions of the Sisters of Charity and under the stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

*Our Values*



# WELCOME

## From the Principal

I am delighted that you are considering St Vincent's College for the secondary education of your daughter(s). The College is one of Australia's oldest and most distinguished educational institutions, having first served the families of the new colony of New South Wales and continues today to provide a first class education in Sydney. The public infrastructure of the City, established parklands and bustling Harbour are part of our neighbourhood. Our educational and social outreach builds upon this unique setting providing our young women extensive opportunities that extend beyond our classrooms.

A constant throughout the history of St Vincent's College has been the presence of the Sisters of Charity. Initially established and fully operated by the Sisters of Charity, the College is now part of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, an entity set up under Canon law to maintain the mission and charism of the Sisters of Charity into the future. St Vincent's College is fortunate to have Sisters on the College Board and on staff, and together, all who serve in governance and education, ensure the distinctive values of Generosity of Spirit, Hope, Respect, Justice and Service to the Poor are given contemporary expression. A full religious education and social justice program are vital elements of every stage of the educational journey.

I invite you to find out more about our College by coming to visit us during our Open Days and Enrolment Tours; by visiting our website [www.stvincents.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stvincents.nsw.edu.au) talking to our Alumni, and families with daughters currently enrolled at St Vincent's College or making an appointment to come and meet myself or other senior staff. Making a decision about where to enrol your daughter for secondary education is a complex process and you need to be well informed. This prospectus and enrolment package is only the start!

Good luck and every blessing to you and your family throughout this period of enquiry.

Yours sincerely

Anne Fry



The distinctive College values of Generosity of Spirit, Hope, Respect, Justice and Service to the Poor are given contemporary expression.





# FAITH

## Cherish our Catholic Heritage

The Sisters of Charity were founded by Mary Aikenhead. As a young woman in Ireland in 1815 she worked amongst the poor in Ireland and in established the Sisters of Charity. In 1838 their mission extended to Australia where they began helping those in need, especially the convict women of Parramatta. They were the first female religious order to arrive in colonial Sydney, the Sisters cared for the poor and marginalised. Those early ministries have developed into world-class services in health, education and community care.

On May 1 1858, the Sisters of Charity founded St Vincent's School on its present site in Potts Point as a co-educational primary school. It became a College in May 1882. The Sisters of Charity believed in the value of a girl's education and the strength of a Catholic Faith life supporting the growth of the individual.

From the first year, students at St Vincent's College were prepared for external examinations. In early years, music figured largely in the curriculum. At the beginning of the twentieth century, it was reported that St Vincent's College "was already on a firm footing, having won respect for its academic and musical successes, but still more for the character training and formation of its students."

St Vincent's College continues to provide a high standard of education encouraging excellence, critical inquiry, independence in learning and above all, commitment to truth and personal integrity. As a Catholic College, we are committed to establishing a community which is energised by the life and teachings of Christ. St Vincent's College aims to be a place where Gospel values are lived and where the Ignatian ideals of Compassion, Commitment and Competence are visible. Social justice has always been at the forefront of College practices and policies.



We strive to relate human culture to the gospel of Jesus so that we develop sensitivity to each other, expressed in service and social justice.



Through a process of experience, reflection, decision and action, students at St Vincent's College are encouraged in their search for God, in their academic studies and in the way they can find expression of their faith in their lives. Knowledge of the world illumined by the light of faith is a basic principle of our motto - *Scientia cum Religione* calls us to take the wisdom and understanding that comes with education and combine it with the virtues and values of religion so that we may truly live a life modelled on that of Jesus and his concern for people.

We strive to relate human culture to the gospel of Jesus so that we develop sensitivity to each other, expressed in service and Social Justice. The worth and dignity of each person is recognised in the commitment each has to one another.









# PASTORAL CARE

*Relationships built on respect, mutuality and inclusivity*



At the heart of our mission are the students in our care who we wish to empower to flourish in new and progressive ways responding to the challenges of their times.

Of the core values of St Vincent's College respect, justice and hope are lived out through the pastoral care of our students. Girls who feel that they are in a nurturing environment and are known and valued thrive intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. With a strong community focus, the College ensures parents and carers of the students are valued partners, in care and education of your daughters.

The key to our pastoral approach is developing the whole person within a wellbeing framework. St Vincent's College prides itself on the role staff and our community play in shaping our students to be confident, independent and discerning young women. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions to maintain a positive environment for wellbeing and learning. Pastoral and academic care programs challenge and nurture students to develop personal capability to be agents of their own wellbeing and academic success.



## House and Tutor Group

Pastoral Care at St Vincent's College is structured in a vertical House system with a Tutor Group being the central focus. This enables continuity of care and communication with families and allows peer relationships to grow and transition as student progress through the years within the same Tutor group.

Tutor Groups meet each morning, enabling the interaction of students and teachers in small personalised groups, where each student is known, valued and affirmed.

Within the Tutor system each student is encouraged and guided academically and personally by their Tutor teacher. The depth of communication between the varying Year levels is further enhanced by the peer support within the Tutor Group and House.

The College House system establishes a shared leadership and team model, whereby the pastoral and academic lives of students are integrated. Importantly the House system enhances the infusion of College values.





Each House Group has a Head of House who facilitates strong relationships between staff, students and parents in the care and support of the girls. The Pastoral Care Team leads the development, implementation and evaluation of pastoral care programs that are evidence based and responsive to adolescent girls in the context of their contemporary world.

The College House system uses the vertical House as the unit around which all the pastoral and administrative functions revolve. This reflects the College's commitment to holistic education, whilst also enabling students to develop relationships amongst their peers within and beyond their Year cohort.

Belonging to a House generates joy, spirit and pride that is celebrated across school life.

The College House names honour the rich tradition of the five Sisters of Charity who began the work of the Sisters in Australia and Mary Aikenhead who is the inspiration for their work, providing a fitting model of intelligence and compassion for our students.

## Pastoral Care Team

In addition to the Tutor teachers and Heads of House, the Pastoral Care of students is supported by:

- Deputy Principal, Pastoral Care
- College Companion
- College Counsellor
- College Nurse



**Students are nurtured and challenged to develop personal capability to be agents of their own wellbeing and academic success**



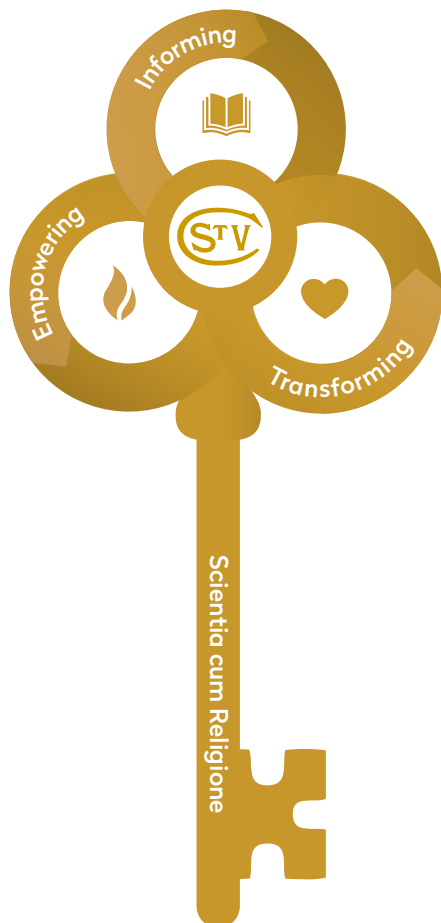
# LEARNING EXCELLENCE

## Fostering resilience, confidence and independence

St Vincent's College is a dynamic learning community that promotes resilience, confidence, independence and diversity for the purpose of transforming the world. Drawing on our extensive history, students benefit from a long standing tradition of Catholic educational excellence.

Integral to the ethos of the College, is recognising and nurturing the individual talent of each student and fostering their unique gift. At St Vincent's College we recognise that each student is unique, and each student has different gifts, abilities, interests and styles of learning. Students thrive in this supportive environment, resulting in excellent outcomes of learning.

Personal excellence is encouraged by offering each student a diverse and challenging curriculum tailored to suit her own learning requirements and skills. A learning paradigm that is reflective and evaluative underpins the learning framework at St Vincent's College.



**A St Vincent's College graduate is a courageous woman of action empowered to be independent in thought, compassionate in attitude and confident to act.**



Our learning framework informs our students with the essential knowledge and core skills of the 21st century: critical thinking, creativity and collaboration. Transforms our students by a culture of right relationships, immersion into social justice experiences and the practice of reflection and discernment and empowers students to be independent in thought, compassionate in attitude and confident to act.

Current and emerging technologies are integrated into all learning and teaching processes, with recent advances in technology entering every facet of the classroom and beyond. The College fosters creativity, innovation and a strong focus on developing processes to facilitate effective transition for all students to new learning contexts.

Academic Care is central in the education of the girls at St Vincent's and involves enhancing student learning, well-being and resilience through academic processes and practices which are sympathetic to student needs.







# BOARDING

## A rich and integrated boarding community



Opportunities my girls have enjoyed whilst living here in Potts Point, the closeness and proximity to the centre of Sydney, the Harbour and access to the beaches, the life around the College has enriched their experiences.



SVC Boarder Parent

Boarding has always been at the heart of St Vincent's College and we offer our girls a rich and integrated boarding experience. We are committed to providing flexible, innovative, and caring boarding school options to support 21st century learners and their families.

Our boarders are drawn predominantly from rural NSW regions and towns, some interstate and overseas. Together they bring a rich and diverse variety of life experiences and cultural backgrounds. They are welcomed into a community that fosters and values relationships built on respect, mutuality and inclusivity. When they enter boarding at St Vincent's College they create friendships that last a lifetime.

For boarders from regional areas, our College's location offers boarders the unique experience of a quiet oasis of College life only minutes from the centre of Sydney. The modern spacious facilities of the Boarding House provides all the comforts for our boarding students to establish a sense of belonging to our warm community. Boarding provides opportunities to develop independence, responsibilities to themselves and others, the ability to share space and facilities, resilience and to develop their relationship with God through personal and communal encounters, all in a caring and supportive environment.









# SOCIAL JUSTICE & IMMERSION

## Service of the poor



At St Vincent's College, our rich heritage and unique location translates into a strong grounding in social justice is instilled into every aspect of daily life. Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide array of Social Justice initiatives and to take part in immersion and service learning programs.

Ignatian Spirituality calls for people to come to understand themselves and their place in their world through a process of Context, Experience, Reflection, Action and Evaluation. As a College whose mission is formed in Ignatian spirituality through the rich tradition of the Sisters of Charity, we take great pride in offering an array of Social Justice experiences and Immersions for students to engage in so that they may become the people God dreamt them to be. All of our service, immersion and advocacy programs offer participants opportunities to deepen their spirituality and strengthen their commitment to living their faith in ways that build a more just world.

Social Justice in our College is based on the Ignatian way of proceeding: reflection, experience and action. Throughout their time at the College, all students engage in Social Justice. Every student is provided the opportunity to engage in raising awareness for a number of charitable organisations that the College is affiliated with. These opportunities are facilitated at House and Year levels. Students are expected to learn about the agency they support and become advocates for its cause. Students develop their communication and leadership skills whilst deepening understanding of inequities and injustices that exist at a local, national and international.



St Vincent's has allowed us to develop into just and sensible women who will use their potential to change the world.



Year 12 Student





When we are generous in welcoming people and sharing something with them—some food, a place in our homes, our time—not only do we no longer remain poor: we are enriched.



Pope Francis





# OUR COMMUNITY

## Inspired by our history and tradition

When families enrol their daughters at St Vincent's College they join a community. An open, warm and welcoming community that celebrates and is inspired by our history and tradition.

A community that ensures students are supported in an educational partnership with their families, staff, ex-students, the Sisters of Charity, the Trustees of MAM, the College Board and friends of the College. A wonderful network exists within and beyond school for students and parents.

There are many opportunities for parents to become connected to St Vincent's College community by participating in activities, supporting College events and celebrations.

The St Vincent's College Parents and Friends Association is a vibrant part of our College community and supports the College in creating an inclusive, engaged parent community. The Parents and Friends Association is supported by an extensive network of parent volunteers who assist with key College activities and events.

The St Vincent's College Ex-Students' Union, founded in 1897 enjoys a close relationship with the College. Your daughter, on graduating, will join a distinguished and inspiring group of women. St Vincent's College Ex-Students are found in every walk of life, and are well represented in many fields exhibiting scholarship and achieving high acclaim. Ex-students, celebrate deep bonds and connection with each other based on their common experience of being educated within the 'Vinnies spirit'.

The College Foundation, established in 1991, harnesses the generosity of the community and is focused with the support of the Ex-Students' Union, parents (current and past) and staff on building philanthropic support to ensure the continued growth and financial security of the College. Today, students enjoy the result of foresight and generosity of previous generations.

A community that began in 1858 by the Sisters of Charity and flourishes today under the stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.







St Vincent's College spirit, manifests itself in many forms, primarily it is a feeling of belonging and every member of our community senses it.



Year 12 Student



# CO-CURRICULAR

## Fostering creativity, celebrating diversity

St Vincent's College recognises our students as individuals and encourages exploration of their unique expression outside the realms of the traditional classroom. There is plenty to choose from and students are encouraged to participate, discover, celebrate their talents and share their generous spirit through participation in co-curricular opportunities, enhancing their creativity, leadership, well-being, resilience and teamwork skills.

Our students enjoy the benefits of an exciting and extensive co-curricular program that caters to their diverse talents and interests nurturing mind, body and spirit to build individual confidence and self-esteem.

Students can participate in classes such as dance, drama, debating, public speaking, choral and instrumental music, the Mock Trial competition and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The Marion Corless Learning Resources Centre also facilitates a range of Clubs around literature, writing, reading, popular culture and gaming.

Music and Dance ensembles are facilitated and taught for a nominal charge to support the Colleges policy of inclusion. Every student is welcomed, supported and nurtured. Creating and performing, even in front of like-minded individuals requires bravery, and develops confident, creative, independent young women.



**Our students enjoy the benefits of an exciting and extensive co-curricular program that caters to their diverse talents and interests.**



Sport is an integral part of College life with individual and team sports with the College Sport program attracting high levels of participation by all students. Students are encouraged to choose at least one team or individual sport each term from an extensive range of options including basketball, netball, hockey, softball, crickey, volleyball, touch, soccer, futsal, water polo, athletics, cross country and swimming. The College participates in a number of different sporting competitions run by various sporting associations and our girls enjoy considerable success in the Independent Girls Secondary Schools (IGSSA) Association competitions and carnivals.

The value and significance of outdoor education is recognised and students are provided opportunities to engage in physical and team building skills. Annual camps are enjoyed by students in Years 7 to 10, with senior students undertaking retreats that strengthen their relationship with God and friends.











# COLLEGE LOCATION

## Potts Point, Sydney



St Vincent's College offers a unique opportunity for girls to be educated in an historical education precinct on the very edge of one of the world's major cities. The cosmopolitan atmosphere of Potts Point provides a rich, real world experience in which the students develop skills, confidence and awareness. The vibrant streetscape of the area allows the students to appreciate the culture, history and duality of this area of Sydney.

Sydney's impressive harbour and sky-line provide a stunning outlook for our students to enjoy, and within an easy walk are major landmarks and cultural facilities such as Government House, the Sydney Opera House, The Art Gallery of NSW, the State Library and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Public transport services in Potts Point are excellent with trains and buses linking Potts Point to central transport hubs of Sydney. Our students develop great capacity to plan their travel, and the travel to and from a chance to socialize with students from our own and other Colleges.

For our Boarding families the proximity of the Airport is a bonus; we are also served by Country Link Buses.

## Facilities

College grounds comprise a blend of beautiful heritage buildings, some dating back to the 1800's, merging with our more modern and recently restored buildings.

- Specialist classrooms for each subject area
- Five science laboratories
- Learning Resource Centre
- Swimming pool
- Multi-purpose courts
- Fully equipped dance studio
- Keyboard laboratory for music
- Recording studio
- Private music rooms
- Recital hall
- Technology and Applied Studies Centre
- Visual Arts Centre



# SCHOLARSHIPS

Encouraging diversity



Scholarships help St Vincent's College create and maintain diversity in the student body. The College annually offers scholarships for Academic, Boarding, Drama and Music. Our very successful partnership with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation allows us to offer Boarding Scholarships to young women with an Indigenous heritage.

As well as our Scholarship program, the College welcomes enquiries from families who may require financial

assistance to support their daughter's education during her time at St Vincent's College. Families seeking such Bursary assistance are encouraged to speak in confidence to the Principal. An application package will then be sent outlining the process and selection criteria.

Scholarships and Bursaries are renewed annually (or per individual arrangement). Please visit our website [www.stvincents.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stvincents.nsw.edu.au) for further information.

Discover more..



# ENROLMENT

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See the possibilities a St Vincent's College education has to offer

To experience and see the opportunities a St Vincent's College education has to offer your daughter please visit us.

We regularly hold College Enrolment Tours or join us at an Open Afternoon.

Visit our website to register:

**[stvincents.nsw.edu.au](https://stvincents.nsw.edu.au)**

Alternatively contact our College Registrar, by phone, or email.

Email: **[registrar@stvincents.nsw.edu.au](mailto:registrar@stvincents.nsw.edu.au)**

Contact the College on: **+61 2 9368 1611**

**To discover more and keep up to date, please visit us:**

[stvincents.nsw.edu.au](https://stvincents.nsw.edu.au)

 [/StVincentcollegepottspoint](https://www.facebook.com/StVincentcollegepottspoint)

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We look forward to welcoming your family to St Vincent's College



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*Scientia cum Religione* calls us to take the wisdom and understanding that comes with education and combine it with the virtues and values of religion – generosity of spirit, hope, justice, respect and service of the poor – so that we may truly live a life modelled on that of Jesus and his concern for people.

Scientia Cum





Religione



An independent girls  
Catholic day and boarding  
College for Years 7 to 12,  
inspired by the traditions of  
the Sisters of Charity and  
under the stewardship of  
Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

## St Vincent's College

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