



ST. BRIGID'S
COLLEGE

**COLLEGE
PROSPECTUS**



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We aim to prepare our students to
reach their potential in all facets of their lives,
be that academic, spiritual, sporting or cultural. The development
of strong, positive, Christian relationships between members of
our community and an excellent academic standard is at the
forefront of our mission.

We are proud of our students, present and past, who are, or have
enjoyed, an education at our College, and we look forward to
welcoming new generations as we continue to improve in the vital
work of preparing our young people to be caring, responsible and
trustworthy citizens of the future.



WELCOME TO ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE

We are a Catholic co-educational primary and single-sex secondary day and boarding school for girls.

Founded in 1929 by the Sisters of Mercy and situated in the hills, 25 minutes east of Perth, St Brigid's College prides itself on delivering a quality education that caters to students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12.

St Brigid's College stands as testimony to the vision and commitment of the Sisters of Mercy and the beliefs of Mother Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Mercy Order.

St Brigid's College Lesmurdie, Western Australia, was established by the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy, West Perth. The College takes its name from an Irish Saint named Brigid, meaning "strength allied to virtue".

At the heart of the College lies the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy – a celebration of the value and dignity of each person, a belief in the ability of all people to fulfil their potential and the gift of faith in facing the challenges of the future.

VISION

"We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us." - Catherine McAuley

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We at St Brigid's College are committed to providing excellence in education within a Christ-centred environment. St Brigid's College nurtures and supports every student in their growth as contributing members of the Community, within the Spirit of Mercy.

OUR VALUES

RESPECT

We honour the uniqueness of ourselves, others and the environment.

JUSTICE

We commit to creating an atmosphere of fairness, morality and equality.

COMPASSION

We forgive all through acts of kindness, humility and patience.

COURAGE

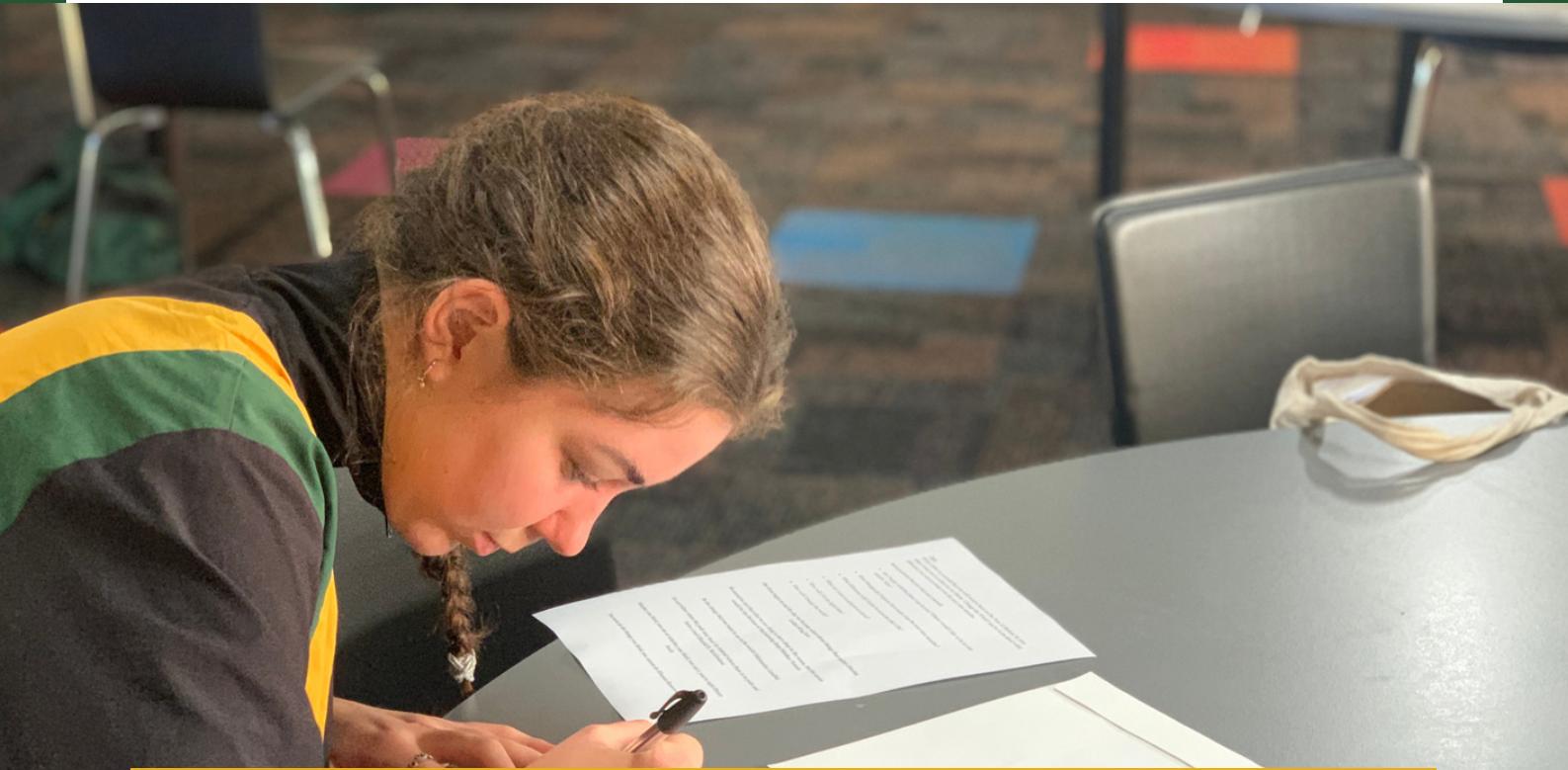
We strive to be resilient and live passionately with vitality of spirit.

SERVICE

We use our gifts to serve others selflessly, especially those in need.

HOSPITALITY

We offer welcome to all with generous and open hearts.



A dynamic and stimulating learning environment provides a seamless transition between Primary and Secondary.

Partnerships between students, teachers and parents are critical in developing our learning and teaching programmes, ensuring that each of the nine learning areas addresses the essential knowledge and skills. In doing so, each developmental stage nurtures the unique gifts of each of our students.

CURRICULUM

Religious Education

St Brigid's College aims to develop students' understanding and appreciation of the Catholic faith's beliefs, values, practices, and expressions. We aim to integrate faith with life and encourage all students to see the joy of life and creation.

Our message is hope and love that stems from the example Jesus gave us. Through the Religious Education programme, students understand the importance of religious beliefs throughout the world, ethical discernment, spiritual awareness and the ability to demonstrate Mercy in their care for others.



The Arts

Students are exposed to an enriching spectrum of dance, drama, music, visual art and media. They are encouraged to develop creative skills, critical appreciation and knowledge of technologies in these areas. This enriches their sense of personal and cultural identity of themselves and others. St Brigid's College offers many opportunities for the students to be involved in song, music, debating and craft to develop confidence and self-awareness through participation in these programmes.

English

The English Learning Area offers students the opportunity to learn about the language and use it effectively. Students develop functional and critical literacy skills to improve their critical thinking to become autonomous learners and develop an appreciation of the English language.

The study of English allows students to explore the values and attitudes that shape our society. There is an ongoing focus on developing the links between students' communication and social skills.



Physical Education

Through participation in the Health and Physical Education programme, students develop the knowledge and skills necessary to make responsible decisions about their well-being. St Brigid's College's extensive programme focuses on fitness and team-building and developing self-esteem, interpersonal skills, cooperation and initiative. Students at St Brigid's experience the thrill of honest effort and participation in the pursuit of personal excellence.

Mathematics

Students learn to use ideas about numbers, space, measurement, chance and mathematical ways of representing patterns and relationships to describe, interpret and reason about their social and physical world. The students at St Brigid's College are given the opportunity to grasp the fundamental concepts of Mathematics and to acquire the skills that will result in the continued development of mathematical understanding. A 'hands-on' approach to developing such understandings is promoted across the College.



Science

Through the study of Science, students develop an understanding of the systems and processes that support life on our planet. The global village is central to the learning environment of the Science classroom, and our students continue to be encouraged to take an active, responsible role in using Science and its applications in their daily lives.

Humanities and Social Sciences

Students develop an understanding of how and why people live together, interact with their environment and manage institutions and systems. The principles of cooperation and collaboration challenge students through their involvement in the changing times that the global environment creates.

Technologies

Students will develop both design and digital technology skills that have become an integral part of the wider society. St Brigid's College values self-mastery, independence of thought, and stimulation from working with breakthrough technology. Students are allowed to keep abreast of the advances in digital technology and make it work for themselves and others through innovative programmes such as Robotics.

Languages

It is recognised that students will become citizens of the world, enjoying many opportunities to live and work with people from different countries. By studying languages other than English, we can best prepare the students to meet such a challenge. Students gain an understanding of other societies, the ability to interact with people from cultures other than their own, and practical skills, which they can use in future years. Students from Kindergarten to Year 12 have the opportunity to engage with a second language.





PASTORAL



In an environment of faith, love and support, our students are encouraged to become self-confident young adults who have **developed life skills** that best prepare them to be proactive members of society.

As a Catholic community, we recognise how important it is to assist everyone to understand our faith and be able to access the ways we attempt to be 'Mercy in Action'.

Active pastoral care means that the individual is the focus. This care is at the heart of all aspects of the curriculum and is exercised by all members of the College.

We are committed to providing students with an academic and pastoral environment that nurtures a belief in each person's dignity and unique qualities.

Students meet daily with a designated teacher who takes a personal interest in them and monitors their overall progress.

Through the Pastoral Care programme, the students set personal goals to become responsible Christian learners. In an environment of faith, love and support, our students are encouraged to become self-confident young adults who have developed life skills that best prepare them to be proactive members of society.





*The Primary of St Brigid's College is **co-educational** and caters for students from Pre-Kindergarten (3 years) through to Year 6.*

PRIMARY

The curriculum nurtures the development of the whole person in a Christ-centred environment, firmly based on the Catholic tradition. The children are encouraged to develop independence of thought and to become responsible for their learning.

Parents play an active and integral role in the life of all areas of the Primary. Their involvement and support are essential in providing the best possible education for all students. Students in the Primary have ready access to educational facilities such as Science laboratories, computer laboratories, the Performing Arts Centre, the swimming pool, tennis courts, ovals and the Gymnasium.





The Early Years

Pre-Kindergarten (3 years) to Pre Primary

The Early Years provide a caring, safe and secure environment in which children are offered developmentally appropriate experiences that encourage inquiry, exploration and hands-on learning. Our child-centred programmes are based on each child's social, physical, emotional, cognitive, cultural, and spiritual needs.

Play-Based Learning

Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. When children play with other children, they create social groups, test out ideas, challenge each other's thinking and build new understandings.



At St Brigid's College, we pride ourselves on our commitment to best practices for our students and embrace the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

The Early Years Learning Framework conveys the highest expectations for all children's learning from birth to five years and through the transitions to school. It communicates these expectations through the following five Learning Outcomes:

- Children have a strong sense of identity
- Children are connected with and contribute to their world
- Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Children are confident and involved learners
- Children are effective communicators.

Three-Year-Old Pre-Kindergarten

The two-day Three-Year-Old Programme at St Brigid's College recognises the importance of quality early learning. The learning programme has been developed with an emphasis on the whole child and the interrelationship between mind, body, and spirit.

This holistic approach highlights the children's physical, personal, social, emotional and spiritual well-being as well as cognitive aspects of learning. Learning is a social and collaborative activity when strong relationships are developed between children, families and communities. Strong connections are also made to the natural world in understanding and respecting the natural environment and the interdependence between people, plants, animals and the land.

At St Brigid's, we recognise that children are constantly learning from conception and develop in their own time and at their own pace. We understand that all children are strong, competent, and unique. The programmes have been designed to enhance them as creative and independent thinkers, great problem solvers and communicators who learn to grow through provocations and play. The Three-Year-Old Programme is an inclusive, fun-filled and dynamic programme for the early years, providing a genuine education and care choice for families in an inviting and nurturing environment.

Aims of a Three-Year-Old Programme are to:

- Promote school readiness
- Encourage self-help and independence
- Promote a positive self-image
- Create a safe, secure and nurturing physical and human environment that is both aesthetically pleasing and conducive to maximum learning
- Support and encourage parent participation with their child's development
- Provide a developmentally appropriate programme for three-year-old children





Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, there is an emphasis on social development and the chance to freely explore and experience a variety of materials, equipment and activities. The Kindy curriculum, spread over three days, is diverse and considers the children's prior experience and builds on their current knowledge. Activities are designed to be 'hands-on' and fun. They include skills that may encourage your child to be able to talk about things that interest them; draw pictures; pretend to write; recognise colours, numbers, sizes and shapes; and share with others.

We believe that each child is a precious and unique gift from God. The children are encouraged to explore, discover, grow, and develop their special gifts and talents. Our priority is to affirm every child and work with parents and families to build each child's potential, self-esteem and confidence.

Pre-Primary

Pre-Primary builds on the experience of Kindergarten. It is the first year of compulsory full-time education. The programme ensures that the children are actively engaged in exploring, investigating, thinking and communicating. The individual progress of each child is carefully monitored. Children interact with one another through learning centres, which provide a happy, supportive environment where curiosity and inquiry are fostered. Throughout each day, opportunities are provided for the children to work collaboratively and independently.

Spiritual growth is nurtured through the Religious Education Programme and incidentally each day. As in Kindergarten, the curriculum is extended through specialist teachers who introduce the children to Music, Italian, and Physical and Health Education. Through structured interaction with older students across the campus, Pre-Primary children are given a sense of belonging and learn to build positive relationships with others.

In Pre-Primary, the students learn to develop an enjoyment of learning and an appreciation and awareness of the world around them. These experiences provide a firm foundation for their future education.



Bush School

St Brigid's College resides in a beautiful hills landscape, and recently teachers have implemented a Bush School Programme into the Early Years. The programme aims to engage students in nature play experiences, and Bush School experiences offer meaningful, open-ended interactions between children and the natural world around them. Bush School learning experiences develop children's inquiry, exploration, and discovery through an authentic connection to nature. Bush School fosters an appreciation of the natural environment, develops environmental awareness and provides a platform for ongoing environmental education.

Our holistic approach and beautiful environmental setting mean that classroom teachers can implement learning experiences that develop practices to promote sustainability and conservation. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills such as safe tool use, adhering to boundaries, caring for animals, fruit-bearing trees and running creeks. Through these Bush School learning experiences, students develop attitudes of respect, curiosity, wonder and awe of the natural world around them.









*St Brigid's College Secondary curriculum **provides opportunities for students to develop skills and attitudes** that will allow them to make informed choices about their future.*

SECONDARY

St Brigid's College Secondary curriculum provides opportunities for students to develop skills and attitudes that will allow them to make informed choices about their future. A wide selection of subjects caters for students' individual needs, interests and strengths.

At St Brigid's, we holistically address each student's intellectual, spiritual, social, emotional and physical well-being and provide them with opportunities to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to manage complexity and take responsible action for the future with confidence.

We challenge our girls to reach their potential, serve the wider community and understand that education is an instigator of change.



Year 7-9

The Year 7-9 approach to learning provides opportunities to gather and apply knowledge about the self, the natural world, society, technology, the arts, and other cultures. Students study a breadth of learning areas and are given the opportunity to further develop their skills in language, mathematics, rational and creative thinking, problem-solving, technology and teamwork on a daily basis. Students are supported in developing the skills they need to be resilient, active, informative, and confident learners ready for the next phase of schooling.

Year 10-12

At Year 10, students are encouraged to develop new skills in time management and independent learning as the academic rigour of their courses increases. Year 11 and 12 students are assisted in designing their courses after participating in an intensive career information and advisory programme. Goal setting is a vital component of this process so that a student's prerequisites for further study or employment are being met. There is also the opportunity for students to combine study at school with training in industry through the Workplace Learning Programme and School-Based Traineeships.

*Students are encouraged to **pursue personal excellence** in a nurturing environment that **focuses on the development of the whole person**. Interpersonal and self-management skills, which are a vital part of **becoming independent and responsible** life-long learners, are at the heart of our Secondary philosophy.*



St Brigid's offers its girls a legacy of growth and learning to take with them into the future. In preparation for this, students of the Senior School are given the opportunity to pursue studies in a dynamic range of subjects. Recognising the demands of society in shaping the way of the future, the College provides opportunities for students to develop skills in internet and multimedia technologies across the curriculum.

St Brigid's challenges young women to take on a responsible role in the wider local, national and international communities and be proactive members of our society. There are many opportunities for leadership and service provided. All senior students are encouraged to develop their personal qualities and strengths by participating in such programmes and the exceptional range of extracurricular sporting and cultural opportunities offered.

A comprehensive academic enrichment programme called Altiora is available to students in Years 10-12. This programme provides a series of challenges aiming to stimulate academic focus and reflective learning, camps, overseas and interstate tours, a range of keynote speakers and an extensive set of learning resources.





BOARDING

*The Boarding House at St Brigid's College provides a caring and comfortable '**home away from home**' for girls from all parts of Western Australia.*

Veronica, Teresa, Catherine and Mercy Houses are built around a central courtyard with different year levels accommodated in each House. Each House has a kitchen/lounge room for rest and recreation, a computer room, bathrooms and laundry. Each girl has their room.

Dedicated House Mothers care for the girls in each House, providing a safe and nurturing living space. House Mothers work closely with parents to support and encourage the girls in their endeavours.

After school, boarders have access to College facilities such as the library, swimming pool, netball and tennis courts.

The College Nurse is available for consultation before and after school in the Boarding Health Centre, and our Carers

Our culinary team uses premium quality ingredients to prepare fresh, healthy, and delicious meals daily for our boarders.





The College bus is available to transport boarders to weekend and after-school activities. We work closely with the girls in organising weekend sporting and cultural outings. Supervised study time and day-to-day duties of boarders are balanced with excursions, socials, concerts and involvement in sporting teams.

A strong Christian ethos is at the core of daily life in the Boarding House. This is evident in the caring atmosphere and how students are encouraged to develop their strengths and spirituality while learning the value of cooperation and living in a community.

Our 'big sister' programme helps new boarders settle into life at Boarding. As we are a Catholic College, prayer times are part of each day's programme. On Sundays, all the girls attend Mass together.

The greatest gift that the Boarding experience offers to our girls is the opportunity to establish life-long friendships and lasting memories.





OVERSEAS STUDENTS

*St Brigid's College **recognises the contribution** that students from other countries and cultures make to its community.*

St Brigid's College is a community that celebrates differences and recognises the contribution that students from other countries and cultures make.

Overseas students participate fully in all areas of College life, combining academic rigour with spiritual, cultural and physical growth. Such involvement encourages personal excellence in a broad spectrum of subjects and nurturing life-giving respect for different cultural backgrounds in all students of the College.

All overseas students without permanent Australian residency must reside in the Boarding Section and have a guardian who is

officially approved by the College and who is at least 25 years of age.

Special care is taken to help the students feel welcome in the environment of the Boarding Section, where the top priority is their security and safety.

Through a curriculum that recognises a wide range of interests and ambitions, overseas students are supported and encouraged to pursue their academic and personal goals.



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