



Your Senior School Experience at St Mary's



As your child enters their senior years of learning at St Mary's, their education and leadership journey changes in exciting ways. This aligns with some parents considering the option to transition their child into a junior class at their future high school. While every child is unique and their own personal wellbeing, academic progress and social development should be considered, we would love to have all our students complete their time at St Mary's right until the end of Year 6. Here are a few reasons why.

Excellent Leadership Opportunities

As the "big fish" in the school, your child will have the chance to be seen, be heard and truly shine. They've earned the right to take on senior leadership positions within the school and have the chance to make a meaningful impact.

In Years 5 and 6 St Mary's students are able to actively work with teacher mentors, attend camp, take part in public speaking challenges and develop skills that will allow them to thrive in high school, future employment, relationships and life. They are able to grow, try and succeed in an environment where people know, understand and support them at a pivotal time in their lives.

Leadership roles include Mission, Environment, Community, Wellbeing/Pastoral Care, Sports and IT/Library. We are proud to share that many of our Year 6 leaders went on to hold significant leadership positions in their respective high schools.





The Benefits of a Co-ed Primary Education

An analysis of 184 studies covering 1.6million students from more than 20 nations indicated that single-sex schooling had negligible effect on a student's educational performance in primary school.

We believe that a focus instead on a child's individualised learning is paramount. Our co-ed primary school allows us to authentically foster our students' learning when it comes to values including respect, equality, compassion and empathy, which is especially important in the formative years as 11 and 12 year olds.

We know the value of an inclusive and cohesive community – it starts in the classroom, where our young students build understanding, develop and maintain healthy and respectful relationships and enjoy a diverse range of opinions and ideas.



Your child will thrive in a consistent learning environment

A stable and supportive environment will allow your child to be as confident as possible before they move on to high school. Students who remain at their primary school until the end of Year 6 have one transition to tackle, rather than two (at Years 5 and then 7). They don't have to cope with moving to an environment with students who are up to 18 years of age.

“ You've really pushed me to become a better learner and now I can go to High School with confidence. I would never be where I am without your help.” Emma W ”





The Senior "Zone"

We have a dedicated learning space for Years 5 & 6 in the South Building. This bespoke area allows for fluid learning opportunities as a larger group, in smaller units or as individuals. Senior students have their own kitchen and breakout areas, fostering a sense of independence and responsibility that gently prepares them for a high school environment.

Milestone Moments

Years 5 and 6 are extremely memorable for students. They can further grow in a familiar environment – allowing them to truly thrive.

- Our teachers foster positive relationships with students, while ensuring they develop the firm boundaries and structure needed for them to hit the ground running at high school.
- Students access their own Chromebooks & iPads (Yrs 4, 5 & 6).
- Six specialist leadership groups work regularly with dedicated teacher mentors to enact impactful change within the school and beyond.
- Students relish the opportunity to be part of our Better Buddies Program – being a role model for a Kindergarten student. This allows them to develop empathy, kindness, patience and responsibility.
- Our Year 6 students run our all-school Assemblies, Peer Support program and playgroup sessions, developing confidence and communication skills.
- Finally, the Year 6 Graduation is an unforgettable milestone for all students and parents alike – as seven years of schooling and working as a group culminate in a special celebration that fittingly heralds the next chapter.





Senior Curriculum

Students enjoy a continuity of learning and care via our passionate teaching team. This means as they head towards high school, we maintain an individualised focus on your child's specific needs – allowing for enrichment opportunities or extra support if it's needed. There's no learning curve – our teachers already know and understand your child and will best structure their academics towards their unique goals, right from the outset.

Our senior students also enjoy:

- Public speaking and debating competitions
- Mentoring and coaching with St Paul's and Stella Maris students
- Maths Challenge and Maths Olympiad competitions
- ICAS NSW University competitions in English, Maths, Science, Computing
- Extra curriculum opportunities in Drama, Music, STEM and Languages



"I love being in Year 6 because you get lots and lots of responsibilities and you get to show who you are. You get to become the leaders of the school and be more independent, mature and reliable. You get to be a role model to the younger students. You are also challenged in your learning for high school." Sebastian

Parents say:

"Just thought I would let you know that Giselle has been invited to join the enriched program at Mackellar High this year and won an Excellence award last year. Gigi was equipped with the right tools to deal with high school. She kept getting comments from her teachers regarding her organisational skills and also for the quality of her homework. When asked what primary school she was from Gigi proudly shared. Gigi will always have fond memories of her time at St Mary's and we truly appreciate all that you have done for our daughter. She is thriving at Mackellar and I believe it's due to your leadership and caring staff."

“*Both my children were sad to finish school last year and have only referred to their experiences at school with their teachers in glowing terms. It is clear that they are loved there.*”