



St Catherine's School
Sydney

Boarding at St Catherine's School

Your daughter's Sydney story starts here...

A photograph of three female students in school uniforms standing outdoors. They are wearing blue short-sleeved shirts with white piping at the collar and cuffs, and dark blue skirts. Each student is wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat with a red and blue striped band. The student on the left has a small emblem on her shirt's chest. The student in the center wears glasses and has a similar emblem. The student on the right also has an emblem. They are all smiling and looking towards the right. The background shows a brick building and a grassy area.

Boarding at St Catherine's offers students a strong supportive home in a vibrant and diverse environment. Your daughter will learn to live away from home and become independent, resourceful and confident in an exceptional environment. We are Australia's oldest independent girls school educating women for life and believe this rich heritage, coupled with our vast boarding and educational offering is key to our success.







St Catherine's boarders have the longest history of any girls at the school. Our first three girls were sisters, and when they began their boarding experience on 5 March 1856, Mrs Barker commented in her diary, 'poor things, they were rather tearful when left by their parents, but I doubt not they will soon be happy' (Croft, 1996). And they were. Since that day, St Catherine's has had a flourishing boarding house, where girls from a wide variety of backgrounds come together to continue this strong boarding tradition.

Over the years, the boarding house (and the school) has changed considerably. Today's boarding students live in a modern, welcoming environment located in the most historic part of the school. From taking care of their rooms, to helping new boarders settle in, to daily life

with each other, our boarders develop skills of independence and self-efficacy, as well as learning how to live well with others. They also form friendships that last a lifetime. The boarding community in turn enhances the school by making it a home, infusing it with vitality, depth and heart.

We welcome girls from Year 7 to Year 12, from Australia and overseas. If you are considering a boarding experience for your daughter, we would be delighted to discuss with you what boarding has to offer.

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress



4 Boarding at St Catherine's School

The Boarding Staff

St Catherine's School has one boarding house, which cares for 66 students from Year 7 to Year 12. There is a good mix of girls from Sydney, rural Australia and overseas.

Six permanent boarding staff live on site and are available to assist the girls.

Our boarding team is led by our director of boarding Ms Rebecca Herbert and assistant director of boarding Mrs Emily Kazogolo. The team works collaboratively to ensure each boarding student is well supported and nurtured during her time with us.



MS REBECCA HERBERT

Rebecca oversees the boarding house and has the responsibility for all the boarders, their welfare and development. Rebecca has been at the school for 15 years and is a practicing St Catherine's senior school teacher and year mentor in addition to her director of boarding role. She loves the diversity each day brings and relishes being able to spend time with both day girls and boarding students.

Rebecca was born in Germany, spent her early years in the UK, before moving to Sydney's North Shore. Rebecca has always had a passion for schools and knew early on that's where her vocation was heading. She loves organised chaos and thinks she's incredibly bossy, perfect for a school and boarding house environment!

Rebecca lives on site at St Catherine's with her partner and her young twin daughters, who regularly visit the boarding house to see their "big sisters". Rebecca is respected for her down to earth, practical, flexible, compassionate, approachable and warm personality by both day and boarding students.



MRS EMILY KAZOGOLO

Emily assists Rebecca in the day to day running of the boarding house. She has been at the school for four years and as assistant director of boarding position for two. Her passion is music, and she trained as a music teacher, before moving into her current role of assistant head of biblical studies and boarding.

Born in South Africa, Emily has also lived in New Zealand and attended senior school in Sydney. She lives on site in the boarding house, and is the person the boarders raise in the middle of the night should they be unwell or need attention.

Emily is jovial, relatable, a joker, approachable and an extremely friendly and welcoming support staff member for the students.

The Boarding House

St Catherine's School Sydney is located in the exclusive eastern suburbs, in the safe residential area of Waverley, one kilometre walking distance from the magnificent Bronte Beach. Three kilometres from the school is the world renowned Bondi Beach. Our students are encouraged to experience everything Sydney has to offer, and we encourage the outdoor lifestyle as it encapsulates the Sydney experience. In addition, close by is the beautiful Queens Park where the school hosts several sporting events and where the boarder's have access to exercise. The Sydney domestic and international airport is a short 20 minutes away.

The boarding house is your home away from home. Its layout is designed to provide the comforts of home and freedom to move and enable students to perform school tasks and work individually when required. When you join our boarding family, you will automatically have 65 sisters. Australian girls from the city or country and overseas girls live together in our boarding house. The newly renovated boarding house has comfortable modern living areas with some twin rooms and single rooms with ample desk space, storage, clever shelving and lighting. Each student has privacy for study and rest.

Girls are encouraged to add a personal touch to their rooms – it is their home away from home after all. Delicious, varied and

nutritionally balanced meals are prepared by our chef. Polite and considered language is expected and only English is spoken in the boarding house common rooms, dining room, and during prep time.

Boarders have access to Netflix, smart tv's, and there is wi-fi in all areas of the boarding house. Boarders can utilise the school's facilities including the swimming pool, sports centre, music practice rooms and the gymnasium. All students, day girls and boarders, can use the library from 7.30am until the start of school at 8.20am, and at recess and lunch. All boarders come to the prep centre after dinner at 7.00pm, with Years 7–9 staying until 8.30pm and Years 10–12 until 9.00pm. The prep centre is a fantastic resource where the girls have access to teaching staff for after school hours assistance and older current students who can provide support and mentorship.

Our local shopping village provides access to a range of facilities such as chemists, doctors, bakery, cafes, hairdresser, gift shops and a post office. Bondi Junction, a major transport, shopping and entertainment hub is only a 10 minute walk from the school.

Students build
lifelong friendships
whilst immersing
themselves into life
at St Catherine's.



Why be a boarder?

Our boarders build strong, lifelong friendships with both Australian and overseas students.

Your daughter will learn to live away from home and become independent, resourceful, confident and well educated. We encourage our boarders to completely immerse themselves into life at St Catherine's. Students flourish both socially and emotionally when they engage in the broad cocurricular activities available to them as boarders.

When you join the boarding community, you will do so with mixed emotions. Remember you are not alone, and it is likely that many others are experiencing similar feelings to you.

We suggest the following:

GIVE IT TIME

Moving schools and deciding to become a boarder is a huge change and allowing yourself to get used to the change is very important. Try to take one day at a time. Life will start to get easier for you once you get familiar with the daily routines and when you start to form new friendships.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR OLD FRIENDS

Stay in touch with family and friends and if they are in the vicinity of the boarding house, invite them to visit you in your new surroundings.

TAKE THE INITIATIVE

Don't wait for others to come to you. Take the opportunity to invite a person, or two, from your year group to go with you to explore the local shopping village.

MAKE YOUR PRIVATE SPACE SPECIAL

Bring some of your favourite things from home to decorate your room. Posters, photos, your doona, ornaments and even a bedside rug can make your space feel more comfortable and yours!

GET INVOLVED

The school offers many cocurricular activities such as drama, sport, music, debating and dance.

All boarders in Years 7-10 must be involved in at least one (preferably two) cocurricular activities each term, with a preference for one of these to be a physical activity.

SEEK ASSISTANCE WHEN YOU NEED

There are many staff here to help, both in the boarding house and day school. The best way to get help is to ask.



Academic Benefits

St Catherine's teaching is intentionally tailored to girls. It is free from gender stereotyping, unconscious bias and social pressure from the opposite sex. Studies have proven that girls who attend an all girls' school have higher self esteem and confidence. This prepares students for life beyond school. We have strong educational relationships with some independent boys' schools and St Catherine's offer one of the broadest curriculum choices of Sydney girls' schools.

Both Rebecca Herbert and Emily Kazogolo teach in the senior school as well as holding their boarding house positions. Close communication between the class teachers and boarding house staff ensures that the girls' study program meets the expectations of the girls', their parents and teaching staff. We have strong tracking processes in place, and we know when things are going well or if there are areas requiring improvement.

The boarding house fosters a culture of hard work, a sense of rigour and an environment where effort, no matter what the ability, is encouraged. Our boarding house students thrive on structure and routine.

A boarder's routine

6.45am – 7.45am

Breakfast

Until 8.15am

Girls prepare for school,
tidy rooms and complete duties

8.15am

Girls leave boarding house

8.20am

School starts

8.20am – 10.30am

Lesson 1 and lesson 2

10.30am – 11am

Recess (morning tea)

11am – 11.20am

Academic Care (3 times per week)

or school assembly

or chapel

11.20am – 1.30pm

Lesson 3 and lesson 4

1.30pm – 2.15pm

Lunch

2.15pm – 3.20pm

Lesson 5

3.20pm – 5.30pm

After school classes, sport,
cocurricular activities.

Boarders return
to the boarding house





Evenings

6pm
Dinner

7pm – 8.30pm
Years 7, 8, 9 prep time

7pm – 9pm
Years 10, 11, 12 prep time

9.30pm
Years 7–11 mobile phones,
laptops, technology collected

Weekends

9am – 10am
Breakfast

10am – 1pm
Sport, cocurricular activities,
day or weekend leave

1pm
Lunch

1.30pm – 5.30pm
Years 7–9 Sunday activity
(each fortnight)

6pm
Dinner

7pm
Quiet time in lieu of prep time



Past student testimonials

**NIKKI WALKER,
SYDNEY BOARDER,
HSC 2019**

**Past boarder and current boarding house
team member.**

I started at St Catherine's as a day girl in Year 7 in 2014. After a year of getting involved in the community, I thought there was no better way to be fully immersed than to join boarding in Year 8. Being a boarder at St Catherine's taught me independence from a young age which carried me through to post school, as well as learning about the diverse cultures within the community. The best thing about boarding was being able to live with and meet lifelong friends, whilst still living near home to travel on the weekends. As a weekly boarder, living at school Monday-Friday meant that I was able to be fully involved in the community with the accessibility of playing sport, contributing with community service and having the library only a few steps away. After graduating in 2019, I returned to St Catherine's a few months later to work as a staff member in the boarding house. Whilst it was something to adjust to, being on the other end of the line, it has been a pleasure reconnecting with friends as students and meeting other staff who all have the same goal. Now working in the boarding house, I aim to enhance the lives of students from all over the world to enable them to have a similar life-changing experience as I did.

**ATHICHA BEAU BOOBPHAKAM,
THAI BOARDER,
HSC 2012**

I joined boarding at St Cath's in Year 7, 2007. Back then, my English was not fluent and I really struggled to understand some of the other girls, but that never stopped us from being friends. At the beginning, I wasn't really sure what the rest of my high school years at boarding would look like, but it turned out to be some of the best years of my life - from being able to walk just across the courtyard to attend morning soccer trainings to walking back 'home' after late night band practice with the other boarders. Most of all, it was the years of living with your best friends, some of whom are still my closest now. I would not want my senior school years to be any other way and I believe St Cath's offers the most memorable, enriching experience that will prepare you for every aspect of life.

Boarder Nikki Walker (left) with friends during the Prefect Induction Assembly



"The best thing about boarding was being able to live with and meet lifelong friends, whilst still living near home to travel on the weekends."

NIKKI WALKER

Boarding at St Catherine's School 13

**IMOGEN HICKS,
CANBERRA BOARDER
HSC 2020**

I became a St Catherine's boarder in Year 10, 2018. I enjoyed it from the start as it was a relatively small boarding community with around 66 girls from all over Australia and overseas. That meant there was always someone to chat with, study with or exercise with, but it was also possible to still find quiet time. Living with girls from a variety of backgrounds broadened my understanding of others and helped develop my social and life skills.

The boarding house had just been renovated so the facilities were brand new and really impressive. The long, hot showers were the best! Yes, there were plenty of rules but it still felt like my home away from home and I always felt supported and cared for.

Living on site was a huge positive as it meant I could enjoy additional access to certain school facilities after hours and on weekends such as the research centre, the gym and the pool. It was so convenient to just walk out of the boarding house door and be at class, team trainings or tutoring in two minutes.

For me, it was a privilege to attend St Catherine's School. I was provided with incredible opportunities through academic mentorship and through the Elite Athlete Program. When I reflect on my time at St Cath's I recall a fun time, forging lifelong friendships that I will always cherish. I am grateful for the opportunity to develop values, skills and knowledge that will guide me for life.

**KEI CI CASEY YU,
HONG KONG BOARDER,
HSC 2019**

I began boarding at St Cath's in Year 8, 2015. It was the first time for me to leave my family for such a long period of time and I was welcomed by the staff and the students from this community. As an only child, it was great to live and make friends with 65 other students from different cultural backgrounds. I was really homesick when I first came to boarding, but I was able to adapt to the community very quickly with the help of the staff and the students. I cherish the memories where I spent times laughing and playing with the other boarders. The boarding house was my second home for five years and I really miss spending time with my friends there, including all the good and bad times. Boarding was like a long time camp for me which was an unforgettable experience. It provided me the opportunity to grow up and learn how to be independent.

Boarder Kei Ci Casey Yu (right)
during our Love School Giving Day



"I cherish the memories
where I spent times
laughing and playing with
the other boarders."

KEI CI CASEY YU



Past parent testimonials

**SIMON AND TANYA BURKE,
TAMWORTH**
**Parents of Willamina Burke
HSC 2020**

Sending Willamina to St Catherine's as a boarder has been one of the greatest experiences that our family could possibly have. We have watched her grow into a confident young lady who has excelled in everything she has achieved with amazing guidance from St Catherine's and the boarding community. As parents from the country, we were amazed and extremely appreciative with the care shown to our daughter in her time in Sydney. Her time as a boarder at St Cath's has guided her and prepared her for her future beyond school and her experience is one that she will never forget.

**LIM SONG AND SOYOUNG
LIM, VIETNAM**
**Parents of Leena Song HSC 2019
and Juna Song HSC 2021**

Sending two daughters to Australia from Vietnam was an anxiety filled experience for all of us as a family. St Catherine's provided the safest environment for Leena and Juna to fully experience cultural diversity and understand what it means to be responsible members of the community. Now they are proud to call themselves St Cath's girls!

PS: Thank you so much for keeping eye on them! You always have someone to reach out to in Vietnam.

**LIN YANG AND XUEJUN
DONG, CHINA**
**Parents of Stella Dong
HSC 2021**

St Catherine's School is a historical girls' school where Stella spent a precious five years where she flourished from a young girl to an independent young woman. Thanks to all her academic and boarding house teachers. Thanks for her friends and Barker house!



Should you be interested in a boarding position at St Catherine's School, please contact the enrolments team on the following

02 8305 6200

enrol@stcaths.nsw.edu.au

For further information please go to our website

www.stcatherines.nsw.edu.au

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