



A leader in girls' education



Willoughby Girls High School

OUR MISSION AND VISION

To inspire each and every girl to be their best self by fostering individual potential, supported by **a five-pillar framework** reflecting strong academic outcomes, supportive student well-being and an exceptional range of co-curricular opportunities.



1. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

A school which aims for the best possible academic outcomes for each student, where:

- » Expectations of individual excellence are the norm
- » Students achieve better than expected results
- » Teachers use engaging methodologies which intellectually challenge students
- » Students are excited about learning and see relevance of their class work
- » Subject knowledge, skills and attitudes are taught with rigour
- » Gifted and talented students are catered for in both classroom and extracurricular contexts

2. STUDENT CENTRED LEARNING

A school where independent learning is part of the fabric of each lesson, which:

- » Encourages students to take responsibility for and risks in their learning
- » Supports students to excel as individuals, work co-operatively in groups and collaborate to maximise learning
- » Supports the individual learning needs of all students
- » Provides opportunities for students to exercise real choice in their own learning journey
- » Instils skills and confidence to utilise a broad range of technologies
- » Develops student capacity for critical reflection and articulation of a wide range of ideas



3. EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN

A school which practises contemporary thinking about gender equity, which:

- » Enhances career and life prospects for all girls to succeed
- » Fosters and develops student confidence in personal and public arenas
- » Empowers girls to develop a consciousness of gender equity
- » Develops and coaches leadership skills and aspirations in girls
- » Promotes positive attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle

4. GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND VALUES

A school which promotes core values, ethical behaviour and an optimistic view of the future, which:

- » Teaches the values of truth, courage, loyalty and personal accountability
- » Encourages and rewards student initiative and leadership
- » Encourages and responds to a strong student voice
- » Ensures that girls feel safe, are cared for and develop self-respect and resilience
- » Develops respectful intercultural understanding
- » Balances individual rights with collective responsibilities and respect for others

5. LEARNING COMMUNITY

A school which values life-long learning, active involvement and continuous improvement, where:

- » Students, staff and parents work collaboratively to achieve our shared vision
- » Students and teachers reflect on the teaching/learning relationship together
- » Developmental opportunities are provided for students, staff and parents
- » Clear expectations of roles and responsibilities are reflected and embodied
- » Girls are fully supported in their learning and personal growth journeys

INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING



At Willoughby Girls we recognise that learning is an evolving process. Research based methodologies are continually evaluated and implemented as appropriate.



PROBLEM BASED LEARNING

All Year 7 classes learn problem solving skills and work collaboratively in groups to apply these to local and wider world problems. Students learn how to research, take on specific roles in the group, plan the problem-solving process, then present their findings to peers and authentic audiences.

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Project based learning is incorporated into all subject areas. Projects run across subjects, enabling students to work collaboratively and apply their learning in a range of real world contexts.

iSTEAM

iSTEAM is a new elective Year 9/10 course where students learn coding, build robots, and engineer structures based on creative application of physics, mathematics, technology principles and design processes.

TECHNOLOGY

On-site computer labs provide specialist ICT study equipment plus high-end software for music composition, photography and digital media, Technology and Design equipment for laser cutting, 3 D printing and textiles embellishing. The school operates a Bring Your Own Learning Device policy, with the emphasis on Learning. Homework and textbooks are routinely set and available online.



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Willoughby Girls High School has exceptional standards on state literacy and numeracy assessments. HSC results consistently position us amongst the top five comprehensive public schools in NSW. We have been ranked 1st three times in the past five years. On average, 85% of our students receive first round University offers.

In 2017, 34% of students gained an ATAR exceeding 90, with four girls placed in the top ten of their subject for the state. Several outstanding students were also nominated for their HSC Showcases, including ArtExpress (Visual Art), Encore (Music), OnStage (Drama) and CallBack (Dance).

SPORT

As part of regular school sport, including Grade sport opportunities, Willoughby offers a varied range of recreational sport activities including Tae Kwon Do, Yoga, Cheerleading, Bowling, Fitness training, Personal training, Hip Hop, Zumba, Squash, Table Tennis, Cricket, Bushwalking, Ultimate Frisbee, and Flag Gridiron. The school boasts four large clubs managed by our P&C Association: Netball (25 teams in 2017), Basketball, Touch Football and Indoor and Outdoor Hockey. Students undertake training in each club and represent the school in local evening and weekend competitions. Many teams are coached by present and past students, creating ongoing opportunities to foster leadership skills.

MUSIC

We have a long and proud tradition of music excellence. All students study music in Years 7 & 8 and can choose Music as an elective in Years 9 & 10 and for the HSC. Our six instrumental ensembles (Junior Wind, Senior Wind, Jazz, Chamber, Percussion and Accelerate) are all directed by experienced and highly professional conductors and comprise more than 150 students. The school also has a Combined Choir and Junior and Senior Vocal Ensembles directed by the music teachers. All Ensembles have opportunities to perform at the Sydney Town Hall, Opera House, The Concourse and various other local venues and events. Every two years the Music Committee plan a music tour featuring high quality performance opportunities, with recent tours to Hong Kong, Tamworth and the U.S.A.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES



The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

is well supported with over 100 students currently engaged in Bronze and Silver levels and eleven students commencing their Gold award in 2018. This highly regarded internationally recognised award requires students to challenge themselves by learning a new skill and undertaking overnight hikes, as well as volunteering in the community.

The Junior and Senior Dance Ensembles

rehearse weekly before school under the guidance of a professional choreographer. All students are welcome to participate with opportunities for performances within and outside the school.

An after-school **Drama** troupe, led by the Drama teacher, is available for Years 7 & 8 students. Students learn playbuilding and improvisation as well as developing skills in communication, collaboration and performance. Drama is also a Year 9/10 and HSC elective subject.

"Willoughby Girls High School demonstrates excellence in secondary education.

I have had the opportunity to observe close hand the school's activities over many years and am incredibly proud of both the academic outcomes and also the range of activities which allows the girls to excel in a number of ways.

It is little wonder that places in the School are highly sought after."

*Gladys Berejiklian MP
Member for Willoughby and NSW Premier*



A **School Musical** is produced every two years, featuring students across Years 7-11. Recent performances include 'Little Shop of Horrors', 'Into the Woods' and 'Annie'.

A **European Tour** is available to Year 11 HSC Modern and Ancient History students, visiting a range of key historical sites aligned with the syllabus in countries including Italy, Germany and Belgium.

Debating and Public Speaking opportunities allow students to compete with other schools across NSW as part of the Premier's Debating Challenge. They can also participate in the Friday afternoon debating program with North Sydney Girls and Boys Schools, and Cammeraygal High School.

Mock Trials create simulated trials, involving legal argument, and constructing prosecution and defence cases under the guidance of solicitors and barristers. Students can also participate in **Mini United Nations**, representing a country in a mock UN meeting. Both these programs involve students competing with other schools from across NSW.

Leadership opportunities include the Student Representative Council, House Captains and Prefects. Students develop their leadership skills through organising whole school annual events including Charities Day, SRC Mufti Day and International Women's Day. Funds are raised at these events for student selected charities.

"State school graduates do better at university than private school graduates with the same end-of-school tertiary entrance score."

Dr Barbara Preston, Canberra University, 17 July 2014, The Conversation



ENGAGING WITH THE WIDER WORLD

Why choose Public Education?

Willoughby Girls High School is proud of its status as a leading school for girls in NSW. As a public school we welcome all young women who live in the local area. Our mission is to ensure we provide a supportive and academically challenging learning environment where our students can thrive.

Studies show that publicly educated students generally settle in more readily to University, are more likely to perform to a high standard and display strong resilience and independence when compared with privately educated students.

A LEADER IN GIRLS' EDUCATION

At Willoughby we take pride in the achievements of each and every student.

Our dedicated and highly skilled teaching team works collaboratively to ensure all students maximise their potential, whether it be in academic, sporting, cultural or creative endeavours.

A range of programs develop resilience and teach strategies for managing the demands of a busy life during school and beyond.

Willoughby Girls are highly regarded in the wider community and recognised for their kindness, their concern for others and their contribution to charitable endeavours.

We look forward to welcoming your daughter to our school.

Willoughby Girls High School, Mowbray Road, Willoughby, NSW 2068

Principal: Ms Elizabeth Diprose, *MA Dip Ed*

Phone: 02 9958 4141

Fax: 02 9967 2174

For further information please go to www.willoughbg-h.schools.nsw.gov.au
or email willoughbg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

WGHS P&C: www.facebook.com/wghspandc/



Willoughby Girls High School