



SANTA MARIA  
COLLEGE

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Boarding  
**Santa Maria College**

**Santa Maria College** has been a boarding school since it first opened in 1938. Up until 1981, boarders lived in the McAuley Building.

The four separate boarding houses opened in 1981 and in 1997 the Boarders' Recreation Centre was completed.

The boarding community makes Santa Maria College a special place. It would be hard to imagine the College without their presence. The willingness of the boarding girls to be involved in all facets of College life sets a high standard for our day girls. We are truly blessed with their presence.

*Hospitality*





# Service

## What is boarding like at the College?

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We understand that the decision to send your child away to school is a difficult one. You want the best possible education for your daughter, but you also want to keep them home with you. There really is no place like home and we cannot replace family. However, we do provide a place where your daughter can feel safe, happy and nurtured.

Boarding at Santa Maria College is a vibrant community made up of girls from many different parts of Western Australia. It is the heart of the College, full of wonderful characters and a strong sense of camaraderie. It is vital to us that it is an environment in which all of our girls thrive.

In addition to their two Housemothers and the Head of

## Who will care for and support my daughter?

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Boarding, girls also have the support of a Gap student who lives in the House. She is someone closer in age who is able to take on the role of friend and confidante as well as organising fun activities for the girls.

The College employs qualified and very experienced nurses to care for sick students in the College Medical Centre between the hours of 8.00 am and 5.00 pm. Outside of these hours Housemothers are in touch with the nurses, doctors and other specialists as required. Parents are of course made aware of any medical care that is required.

Students have access to the College psychologists during the week. The psychologists are friendly, non-judgmental and approachable. They are available to help girls as they face the challenges that arise throughout adolescence.

## Where will my daughter live?

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Our boarding community is divided into four Houses. This means that your daughter is part of a smaller community where every child has a sense of belonging. Each House has two carefully chosen Housemothers who work closely with the Head of Boarding and parents, to ensure the wellbeing of each girl. Regular communication between home and boarding is an integral part in making the Boarding House home for your daughter.

Each House has 38 single rooms. It is a vertical system, meaning there are a number of age groups in each House. We do this so that girls mix with different people to those they are in classes with throughout the day. It also enables girls to live with people of different ages, just as they would in a home environment.

Each girl has her own room that she can decorate and make into her own private sanctuary. In each House there is a communal 'family room' with televisions, stereos, lounges and full cooking facilities and a barbeque and outdoor entertainment area.

In addition to the communal facilities in each House, there is a Recreation Centre with magnificent views of the Swan River for the use of all boarders. Here the girls can play pool, play piano, watch movies on the big screen or just lounge around. Meetings, exercise sessions and social activities are all held here. It is also a great place for families and friends to catch up. The College facilities are available for the boarders' recreational activities.



Justice

## How is study handled in boarding?

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Our girls are supported throughout the term to achieve the very best they can academically. Good study habits are vital. Teaching and library staff supervise study times in the College library. Small tutorial groups and individuals are provided with dedicated support, especially when first making the transition from a small country school to a large metropolitan school. Graduates from Santa Maria College and Gap students have also become an integral part of our study program.

## What will my daughter eat?

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Any teenager will tell you that great food is essential to a good life in boarding. The catering staff at Santa Maria College take pride in providing healthy, tasty food that nurtures both the soul and body. Individual diets are catered for, in addition to fully cooked breakfasts, nutritious lunches, morning and afternoon tea and a variety of great choices on the dinner menu.

## When will my daughter go to Mass?

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Santa Maria College is a Catholic community. Our boarding girls attend mass on Sunday evenings in the College Chapel. This is a special occasion where all the Houses join together in prayer. We believe the best way to live our faith is through action, so the College Service Program is very important. The girls actively participate and are often leaders in this aspect of College life.



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## What recreation facilities are available?

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Our recreation program is developed in response to the requests of the girls and in conjunction with the other boarding schools in Perth. Off campus the girls attend socials, quiz nights, bush dances, sporting events, cultural exhibitions, movie nights and dinner out, often in the company of boarders from other schools. This gives the girls the opportunity to catch up with siblings and friends from home and to also enlarge their group of friends beyond Santa Maria College. On campus we have movie and pizza nights, special themed dinners, yoga, boot camp, gym and swimming. The girls are able to walk down to Point Walter - a fantastic location for a picnic! They can shop at Melville Plaza or Garden City shopping centre.

## Is there a mentoring program?

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The Santa Maria Mentoring Program is part of our pastoral care for the girls. Our Buddies, our Big Sister Little Sister and the Big Girls programs all provide opportunities for our girls to have friendships, support and a friendly face beyond those of their Year group. Our goal is to surround the girls with love and to ensure they are well supported in this home away from home.

## What other support is available for my daughter?

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We also provide external support for the girls - short courses at the College on study skills, managing exams, building resilience, use of technology, cyber and social safety and nutrition. These are initiated in response to the needs and interests of the girls.

*SION*





Excellence



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