



Sacred Heart Girls' College

HAMILTON • NEW ZEALAND



Our Vision

Ignite the passion

Inspiring young women to change the world
- me aro ki te hā o Hineahuone



Welcome

Tēna koutou kātoa

We are a large Catholic School for girls, situated in the oldest suburb of Hamilton East, established by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, in 1884.



We have a long history and an outstanding reputation for providing quality Catholic Education for young women: faithful, aspirational and challenging. We aim to

continue to nurture a culture of learning, with high expectations, and the pursuit of personal excellence, underpinned firmly by Gospel Values.

The Virtues of Faith, Hope and Justice focus our attention on how we live out the Charism and legacy of Euphrasie Barbier: we do this through Communion, Contemplation and Mission. We are fortunate to have a presence of her Sisters in our Community.

Our high expectations extend to all aspects of College life. We consider every student to have great potential, with skills and talents to share, develop and contribute to the school and the

wider community. We expect students to engage fully with all learning activities and opportunities presented to them at Sacred Heart Girls' College, in a positive, respectful and dignified atmosphere.

We want our young women to develop personal responsibility, effective life-long learning habits, personal resilience and well-being, all of which will equip them to live a life that will make a difference in our ever-changing world.

These are confident young women, ready to serve and provide leadership with a 'heart for the world', along with the capability to challenge and shape the future of the contemporary world, through virtue and knowledge.

We invite you to learn more about Sacred Heart Girls' College and look forward to welcoming your daughter into our community, where the formation of virtues, values, knowledge and service is at the Heart of what we do.

Catherine Gunn Principal / Tumuaki

***“Me aro ki te hā o Hineahuone:
Take heed the strength and dignity of women.”***

Our Story

The arrival of the RNDM Sisters, in July 1884, paved the way for Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton. The commemorative window, found in the Notre Dame Centre celebrates the presence and work of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in the Waikato.

The shades of colour, seen in the river and the pasture land, represent both the patterns of life as well as the strength of a community when it unites, which is also represented in traditional Māori tukutuku pattern. The pukeko is a reference to whānau: pukekos will adopt motherless chicks and treat them as their own. The rich produce of the local land, seen in the wheatsheaf, the work of human hands, is a reference to the place upon which our school sits: the garden centre of the Waikato.

The Koru pattern, also resembling a eucharistic host, rises out of the river and embraces the world, as a sunrise, within which can be seen the distinctive cross of the Mission Sisters. The line of gold, a symbol of Virtue, and the inquisitive fantail, a symbol of curiosity, learning and Knowledge are the V and K seen on the school crest.

The soft hues that encourage the eyes to look up towards the heavens in a moment of contemplation as the nurturing of spirit, mind and body liberates us for rebirth, resurrection and Hope. In essence, we see an image of Communion, Contemplation and Mission: our Catholic Character and Charism.

In honour of the RNDM Sisters, and their pioneering spirit and courage, Sacred Heart Girls' College will continue to develop an

inclusive, innovative, creative and technology-rich culture of learning and teaching that is appropriate, engaging and formative for all members of our community, supported by contemporary, flexible and agile spaces that reflect our community's beliefs and values about learning: spaces that support learning and teaching as acts of Communion, Contemplation and Mission.

We will continue to respond to the changing landscape of education, pushing boundaries and placing students at the centre of our decisions in a positive, healthy school culture.

We will continue to be a beacon of Social Justice with a Heart for Mission in a global community, where our young women will have opportunities to be proactive agents of change for a better world.

'Set Your Heart on Sacred Heart' and continue your story with us. Inspired by the vision and story of Euphrasie Barbier, a courageous woman of deep contemplative prayer and missionary action, you will benefit your future story as you set yourself on a pathway to success beyond the school gates, where the world needs your sacred heart.





Zeal for the glory of God is our special and distinctive spirit. Zeal prevails over everything. It is a hunger and thirst for justice, enflames prayer, longings and sacrifices. Zeal is to love what love is to the other virtues. Love is the fire that consumes; zeal is the flame that sets it alight.

Inspiring young women

The education at Sacred Heart Girls' College is a holistic, formative, values-based experience that develops the whole person: the spiritual, academic, physical, ethical, emotional and creative. We explore strategies to encourage and build leadership, confidence and community spirit. These include activities that promote and support social justice, the work of Caritas, St Vincent de Paul, various charitable organisations, prayer, liturgies, cultural activities, retreats and camps as well as formal student leadership positions.

In essence, we are a Faith Community and that is what makes us not only different from other schools, but also distinctive.





Our vibrant House system reflects our Catholic Character. It is an essential part of our development of relationships and building community through House activities and competition. Our Houses are appropriately named after zealous Women of the Church:

Euphrasie **Barbier**, St Catherine of **Siena**,
St Teresa of **Ávila**, Suzanne **Aubert**,
St Thérèse of **Lisieux** and St Mary of the
Cross **MacKillop**.

As well as inspirational Women of Justice, many are declared as Scholars of the Church. Traditionally, family members belong to the same House, thus extending and prolonging the community spirit.

Smaller groups within the Houses
– Communion, Contemplation,
Mission Groups (CCM) – are mini-Faith
communities where our Charism is
explored, developed and practised.



Mission & Leadership

Young women with
a heart for the world

We want our students to grow a heart for justice, to shape and change the world for the better. Therefore, our leadership opportunities focus our head, heart and hands on service for the benefit of the community.

Servant Leadership is the style of leadership that aligns with our Catholic Character and Charism: Communion, Contemplation, Mission. Therefore, we provide leadership training that is mindful of the attributes of the servant leader, as well as developing a range of skills to prepare students for leadership roles in the future.





Leadership opportunities extend across a variety of areas including formal roles for senior students: Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl Catholic Character, Academic Leader, Mission Leader, Te Ao Māori and Pasifika Perspective Leaders, as well as the Arts, Sport, Cultural Diversity, House and Student Well-being Leaders. We encourage our students to identify with the many Groups and Clubs we have available, as they benefit greatly from the leadership experiences they offer.

Many other exciting opportunities are offered to our students, including; The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Scheme, Young Enterprise Scheme and the Hyundai Pinnacle Programme.

Our leadership opportunities focus our head, heart and hands on service for the benefit of the community. Servant Leadership is the style of leadership that aligns with our Catholic Character: Communion, Contemplation, Mission.

Culture of Care

Young women of faith and dignity

Respecting the value and dignity of the individual is key to the success of building positive relationships that develops our Catholic Character and Charism. With their teacher Companion and Learning Mentor/Coach, students are placed at the centre of their learning and are given the best possible assistance to grow as confident, connected, responsible learners for life. In line with our virtues and values, we engage restorative practices to build, enhance and restore relationships across our learning community.

The relevance of Faith development is a challenging area for the contemporary world and, at Sacred Heart Girls' College, we approach this critical area of formation by journeying with our young women, towards a realisation of the

already intrinsic presence of God in their lives. Central to this is the discernment of personal vocation, through Communion, Contemplation and Mission. We want our young women to discover their passion and purpose and match the Zeal of Euphrasie Barbier.

The Companions, Learning Mentors/Coaches, Deans, Guidance Counsellors, Student Liaison Team, Careers Counsellor, our Chaplain and Diocesan Youth Ministers all have a specific role to play in the pastoral care and well-being of our students. Our Deputy Principals have overall responsibility for the processes and practices in place for student learning, engagement and well-being. All staff and students are contributors to a safe, positive and dignified atmosphere for learning and personal growth.



Experience and research tells us that students are most successful when families and school are fully engaged and connected with their child's learning and experiences at school. We believe in developing educationally effective partnerships with our students and their families and whānau. Where appropriate, we engage students and their families with external agencies when extra support may be needed.

We have high standards and expectations for all who are a part of Sacred Heart Girls' College. This is a place where we respect ourselves, each other and the environment. Our carefully considered policies on behaviour and school uniform standards reflect this and they aren't confined to the school premises; they extend to the sports field, public transport, the local community and any instance where students are in uniform or representing our College. We have a dignified and respected reputation in the Waikato which we take great pride in nurturing.



Teaching & Learning

Young women empowered to learn

At Sacred Heart Girls' College, the values of **Virtue** and **Knowledge**, symbolised by the **V** and **K** on our school crest, contribute to our holistic approach to learning. Engaging the head, heart, and hands empowers our students to excel and surpass their personal best whilst upholding their dignity and integrity.

We all know that there is more to education than success in assessments. Along with subject knowledge, we want our students to develop skills essential for life and work 'beyond the school gates'.

Our students are guided to become curious, courageous, and confident. Rooted in the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Justice, they encounter the living Christ, shaping them to be the best versions of themselves.

This dynamic learning culture, inspired by Mary, models a faith-filled life with courage and conviction.

Our curriculum is bicultural and inclusive, placing ākonga (learners) and whānau (families) at the centre of our decisions. Mātauranga Māori is woven throughout, showcasing our dedication to indigenous knowledge. Our Catholic identity influences every part of their learning. We prioritise essential subject content with a curriculum-first approach, offering clear paths to further education and employment. We integrate cross-disciplinary opportunities, providing a meaningful educational journey for our students.





“This holistic, dynamic learning culture shapes our young women to live a faith-filled life, with courage and conviction.”

Drawing on their professional growth and innovation our teachers cultivate the capacities for learning that our young women will need to ‘change the world’ and ignite their passion. We promote problem-solving, risk-taking, and collaboration.

Evidence tells us that young adults learn best when relationships with teachers, students, and whānau are mutually respectful and there are opportunities for independent, self-regulated learning.

We provide a supportive environment that recognises and nurtures individual growth and supports a culture of learning. CCM Companions provide coaching and mentoring, directing students on learning methods, practical skills, and personal development while supporting their wellbeing.

We believe ‘success’ is linked to achieving personal goals that align with individual aspirations, cultural identity, values and life purpose.



Our Sport

Young women committed to reaching their potential

Sacred Heart Girls' College actively encourages students to engage in extracurricular sports at competitive or recreational levels. Our dedicated Sports Development team supports our students and ensures numerous opportunities for participation, competition, coaching, and specialisation across a range of sports. We ensure students are nurtured and developed to their fullest potential.

Our College has first class facilities for Physical Education and sports with a gymnasium, fitness centre, artificially surfaced tennis and netball courts, and use of the local communal Park. Physical Education is available in the curriculum at all levels to encourage the development of each student's physical well-being, team skills, competitiveness, self-discipline, commitment to training and fair play.

We are justifiably proud of its record of achievements in sporting competitions. Teams play in regular and annual inter-school competitions and successful teams and individuals have gone on to represent our College at local, national and international competitions. We have a strong tradition of sports exchanges with Catholic Colleges.

Our top Netball and Hockey teams compete for the coveted Mission Cup and Te Toa Trophy, with other Mission Colleges from New Plymouth, Napier, Hastings and Lower Hutt.

Parents are influential in managing and coaching sports teams and their involvement is warmly welcomed. Senior students are trained as umpires and scorers in various codes, as well as junior team coaches.



*“humility in victory,
grace in defeat”*



House competitions for athletics and swimming encourage school spirit. There is an expectation that all students participate in some way, including supporting the athletes, helping with organisation and serving at the event. These events are opportunities for building community spirit and relationships.

Participating in sports plays a pivotal role in the holistic development of our students. They cultivate traits such as humility in victory, grace in defeat, respect for their coaches, managers, and opponents, and helps foster strong personal qualities that contributes positively to their overall well-being and success.

Arts & Culture

Young women with confidence and passion

Our teachers support students to nurture and develop their artistic potential through our Arts curriculum which includes, Visual Art, Dance, Drama and Music. We have a thriving Itinerant Music Programme which allows students to be tutored by professional musicians on an assortment of instruments.

Students have access to modern and vibrant teaching spaces, including an industry-standard black box theatre, dedicated music studios and purpose built visual art and dance spaces.

Extracurricular opportunities within the Arts include, the School Production, Younger Singers in Harmony Convention (Barbershop) where we have taken

out overall honours and the National Championships, Sheilah Winn National Shakespeare Festival, Theatresports, Smokefree Rockquest and the coveted annual Chanel Shield, which the five Catholic Colleges in the Hamilton Diocese attend. This event features public speaking, debating, drama, and scripture reading.

All performance groups and ensembles are proud ambassadors for the school, and enjoy many regional and national successes.





Our Māori and Pasifika students have the opportunity to explore their heritage and culture through Performing Arts.

The Kapa Haka - Ngākau Tapu and various Pasifika groups perform as ambassadors for the school in a variety of cultural events throughout the year, showcasing to the wider community the beauty and power of Māori and Pasifika Performing Arts.

Performances include; representing the kura at the Koroneihana, Waikato Kapa Haka Competitions, Te Hui Ahurea Catholic Cultural Festival and K'aute Pasifika Language Week celebrations and many more.



International Students

Young women of the world

Sacred Heart Girls' College Hamilton is situated in the Waikato and has much to offer international students. Hamilton is New Zealand's fourth largest city. It is a clean, safe, friendly modern University city which is central to many tourist attractions and located less than 1.5 hours from Auckland.

Our attractive campus offers a well- equipped library, excellent arts facilities (including a theatre), a new science block, commercial kitchen and barista facilities, full sized gymnasium, artificial surface court, and fitness centre.

Our international students are welcomed into a caring, supportive, safe environment and are encouraged to participate in our New Zealand way of life.



*“Set your heart
on Sacred Heart”*





Small groups of International Buddies link with all international students upon arrival, so friendships can begin immediately. Students also benefit from the school's comprehensive pastoral care system. Carefully chosen homestay families ensure that students receive the very best care and support during their time at our College.

We offer exciting academic programmes, with personalised, tailored pathways which are monitored regularly by international staff. Specialist tuition in English Language is offered in small classes. We recognise that every student has unique goals and particular educational needs.

Students may also participate in leadership and service opportunities as well as extracurricular activities such as sports and clubs.

Our international students enjoy a high success rate in the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) examinations. Our school's results are consistently above the national average. NCEA qualifications are recognised worldwide. This creates a pathway for our international students to go on to tertiary studies, with many receiving substantial scholarships.

We are dedicated to empowering and inspiring young women to become confident, engaged learners for life. Our commitment to excellence prepares them to serve, challenge, and shape their future.



HERstory

Beyond the School Gates

We are capturing the rich history of our College, tracing the stories of alumni through the years.

Our desire is to create an online repository in which past and current students, teachers and their families can visit to reminisce and reconnect through the photos, articles and stories of the many generations of women who have and will become part of our HERstory.

To learn more, visit the HERstory website: shgcham.recollect.co.nz







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