



Sacred Heart Girls' College

HAMILTON



Welcome to Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton

Our Vision

Ignite the Passion:

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

Our Story

The arrival of the RNDM Sisters, in July 1884, to provide a Christian education for the children of early settlers (30 girls and boys!), paved the way for Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton. The Sisters were inspired by a daring and courageous vision that led them to take risks and reach out to the margins of society. The harsh conditions of the Waikato, after the bloody land wars of the 1860s, was the place of Mission for the four pioneer Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM).

This arrival story is captured in the commemorative stained glass window commissioned in 1995 to celebrate 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.

Set your heart on Sacred Heart and make your story

part of our story **99**

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.

EUPHRASIE BARBIER, 1869

Communion Contemplation Mission





Welcome to Sacred Heart Girls' College, Hamilton

Tēnā koutou katoa

e 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.

for ful, 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, scholarship and service is at the Heart of what we do.



Catherine Gunn Principal

66 Take heed the strength and dignity of women **99**

We have a long history and an outstanding reputation for providing quality Catholic Education for young women: faithful, aspirational and challenging **99** 66 In essence, we are a Faith Community and that is what makes us not only different from other schools, but also distinctive **9**

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Sacred Heart Girls' College

Mission & Tradition

Inspiring Young Women

ur College is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Our Missionary call is to live and make known the compassionate love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and share in the mission of the Holy Spirit. We do this through Communion, Contemplation and Mission. In essence, we are a Faith Community and that is what makes us not only different from other schools, but also distinctive as a Catholic School.

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 outdoor education camps as well as formal student leadership positions.



ur vibrant House system reflects our Special 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**, Catherine of **Siena**, Teresa of **Avila**, Suzanne **Aubert**, Térèse of **Lisieux** and Mary **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.



6 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 **99**



Mission & Leadership

Young Women with a Heart for the World

e 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 Special 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, Special Character Leader, Catholic Action Leader, Liturgy Leader, Service Leader, Environment Leader as well as leaders of Māori, Pasifika, the Arts, Sport, Cultural Diversity, House and Student Wellbeing. Students are also encouraged to identify an area of school life that would benefit from their leadership.

> Students also benefit from the opportunity to challenge themselves and participate in The Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes, The Spirit of Adventure and Outward Bound. Other opportunities are also offered to students as they arise throughout the year. Examples include World Challenge.

Communion Contemplation Mission

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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 Special 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 Counsellor, Attendance Officer, 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. A Deputy Principal has 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 them 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 reflect this and they extend beyond the school grounds: to the sports field, the local transport, the local community and any time students are in uniform or representing our College. We have a dignified and respected reputation in the Waikato; we want this to continue.





Mission & Learning

Young Women with power for learning

ge Quod Agis is the result of a dynamic approach to all we pursue at Sacred Heart Girls' College. We have a holistic approach to learning. Engaging the head, heart and hands is a powerful driver for our students to excel and surpass their personal best, maintain their dignity and integrity, while immersed in a Faith formation that reflects our Mission Charism.

Our commitment to powerful learning is demonstrated through modern and ample resources, capable and motivated teachers, and an environment that fosters a love of learning in all its dimensions. We offer an experience that encourages an appreciation of culture, the Arts, the place of Science and Technology in our world and the growth of personal responsibility.

We are very proud of our students who consistently achieve a high level of success in National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) exams. We also have success at NCEA Scholarship level. A significant proportion of our students continue their education at tertiary level with many of them achieving substantial university scholarships to support their study, including International Students.

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Sport & Opportunities

Young Women committed to training and fair play

The College encourages students to participate in extra-curricular sporting activities both at competitive and recreational levels. We recognise the individual talent and ensure these are developed.

Sacred Heart Girls' College is 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.

Our College has first class facilities for Physical Education and sports with its 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, selfdiscipline, commitment to training and fair play.

The Sports Development Director and Coordinators provide many opportunities for students to participate, compete, coach and specialise in a wide variety of sport.

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.

Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) makes the most of the Waikato area. The outdoors is a feature of the curriculum as well as tramping for Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Local, national and international trips are often available to enhance and support the learning in class, as are Exchange Programmes.

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Sacred Heart Girls' College

The Arts & Culture

Young Women with confidence and passion

earning is enhanced and enriched by our commitment and celebration of the Arts and Culture as an integral part of the school curriculum and experience. We showcase our cultural and artistic talents at various productions, events and competitions. Our Kapa Haka and Pasifika group perform as ambassadors for the school and in the wider community, as well as competing in cultural events.

Sacred Heart Girls' College has superb facilities for learning art based subjects. Expert teachers aid students at all levels to develop their artistic potential in learning areas such as Painting, Photography, Design, Drama and Music.



he Arts are strongly encouraged with access to a modern and vibrant space. Musicians are able to enhance and refine their skills through individual tuition, from highly qualified tutors in a variety of instruments – such as violin, guitar, drums, flute, keyboard, piano – as well as singing. Musicians also enjoy various opportunities to perform in front of an audience, including their peers, and have the option of sitting examinations at all levels. Our liturgy band supports the community at various services throughout the year. Drama Students have access to the Creative Arts Centre, which resembles a professional theatre both for performance and technical skills. School productions are a strong tradition of the school.

All students are encouraged to build on their oral communication skills through drama, debating and public speaking. Opportunities to participate in a number of performances and competitions give students confidence in the public performance

arena. The Catholic Colleges in the Hamilton Diocese compete in the Chanel Shield, an annual exchange of public speaking, debating, drama and scripture reading. Learning to write creatively for media publications as well as for local and national competitions has extended our most talented students. Many have gone on to be published in their own right and we are proud of their achievements.

Communion Contemplation Mission

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Mission & Diversity

International Students

acred Heart Girls' College Hamilton is situated in the Waikato and has much to offer to 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.

We have a long and valued tradition of welcoming international students into our caring, supportive and safe environment. We offer exciting academic programmes, with personalized, tailored pathways which are monitored regularly by international staff. We recognize that every student has unique goals and particular educational needs to reach these goals. Examination results for NCEA are well above average at all three levels. Specialist tuition in English Language is offered at four levels in small classes at no extra cost.

> Our attractive campus offers a well-equipped library, excellent arts facilities including a theatre, commercial kitchen and barista facilities, full sized gymnasium, artificial surface court and fitness centre with a new specialist learning area for Science as well as contemporary learning spaces.

Small groups of International Friends and International Learning Coaches 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 home stay families ensure that students receive the very best care and support during their time at our College.

We encourage our international students to develop a sense of involvement and participation in our College and our New Zealand way of life. With many sporting and cultural clubs and societies as well as leadership and service opportunities on offer, we focus on developing the individual young woman both emotionally and academically.

Our international students enjoy a high rate of success in continuing on to and succeeding at tertiary level including world class universities. Many have also been the recipients of substantial scholarships for tertiary study.

We are proud of our international team and students. We genuinely care about students' academic achievements as we all work together to ensure the College's vision is achieved. We all want to ignite the passion to inspire young women to change the world.

Beyond the School Gates

HERstory

e 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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