



## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



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The Penrhos College journey began in 1952 in a small building in Angelo Street, South Perth. There were 140 students enrolled and 11 staff members under the leadership of Mrs Margaret Way, founding Principal. Penrhos College today is a vibrant and thriving community of approximately 1,200 students, 250 staff and more than 8,000 Alumni. From the earliest days of Penrhos College, we have placed our students firmly at the centre of all that we do. Our motto of **'Strive for the Highest'** continues to be as relevant today as it was in 1952.

At Penrhos College, our purpose is clear: **To inspire girls to become extraordinary women**; for each girl to be the best that she can be given her unique gifts, talents and passions. It is based on a sense of her making a meaningful contribution to the world at whatever level and in whatever unique way she can.

Our educational philosophy of the **'whole person paradigm'** is founded in the need to nurture the **mind, heart, body** and **spirit** of each girl for a holistic and balanced education. This philosophy is implemented throughout the phases of development, from the young child in Kindergarten to the young adult in Year 12. The notion to inspire is expressed by providing:

- Learning experiences and opportunities across the academic, pastoral, co-curricular and spiritual curriculum to engage, excite and challenge our students
- Staff of the highest possible calibre
- Environmental surrounds that are a pleasure to work and relax in
- A community that collectively nurtures our students during their personal learning journey

We are a faith community in the tradition of the Uniting Church and this, together with our core shared values of **respect, empathy, integrity, knowledge, growth** and **synergy**, guides our actions and interactions with one another. We place enormous importance on the partnership between the College and our parents in working towards the best possible outcome for their daughters.

Our girls are blessed to be given the opportunity for such inspiring educational experiences. This diverse and balanced education allows each girl to explore and realise her strengths, abilities and passions which, in turn, provides her with choices to explore beyond her school days. Though we can never be sure exactly what the future holds, we believe that our girls will be well equipped to manage whatever challenges and opportunities the future presents to them.

**Mrs Meg Melville**  
Principal

# CORE SHARED VALUES

At Penrhos College we have developed a set of Core Shared Values to define the very essence of who we are, what we believe and stand for as staff, as students, and as a community. Values are commonly defined as intangible, deeply held beliefs that guide our actions and interactions. These values bind us together with a common focus and support everything we do.

**RESPECT** is to act with thoughtfulness and consideration with regard to people, property and places (the environment); to hold oneself and others in high regard

**INTEGRITY** is the honesty and truthfulness of one's actions based on universal and shared (College) beliefs

**EMPATHY** is the ability to identify with and understand one another's situations, feelings and actions

We are a centre of **KNOWLEDGE**. Knowledge is what is understood and known. We know where we have come from, who we are and where we are going. We value the pursuit of knowledge and its application so that we achieve our full potential as individuals and as a school.

**SYNERGY** is where a group of people work together to get an excellent result that one person by herself could not achieve

**GROWTH** relates to the development – both personal and as a College in relation to our, MIND (Academic), HEART (Emotional), BODY (Physical) and SPIRIT (Spiritual). Our purpose and our actions are based on the 'whole person paradigm' – that when working and interacting with people each of us is able to grow when we engage our **mind, heart, body** and **spirit**



# THE WHOLE PERSON PARADIGM

Penrhos College is committed to an educational philosophy which acknowledges student phases of development and aims to provide a balanced and diverse education.

## MIND

The teaching and learning program at Penrhos College aims to inspire girls to achieve their academic potential through varied learning experiences that engage, excite and challenge. Our teaching and learning teams provide a high level of academic care to our students. This care together with a broad, balanced, vibrant and seamless curriculum meets the needs of individuals and creates positive pathways for the future.

## HEART

Our pastoral care philosophy is to create a nurturing and positive environment where the individual is valued and connectivity throughout the Penrhos College community is established. Our pastoral care structure and programs aim to graduate students from the College as independent, resilient, socially aware young women who possess not only a strong sense of self but a meaningful connection to their community.

## BODY

Within a dynamic and exciting learning environment students are encouraged to develop their skills and talents across a wide range of physical pursuits. Our rich and extensive co-curricular program seeks to instil in each girl an enthusiasm for physical activities whilst building and developing her confidence, resilience and skills according to her own abilities. Our students are challenged to pursue excellence and personal best in their chosen physical pursuits while maintaining a balance across all areas.

## SPIRIT

As a Uniting Church school, Penrhos College is committed to enabling every girl to experience growth in her spiritual journey. Regular age-appropriate Christian worship services, as well as religious education, exploration of world religions and experience of spiritual practices are an integral part of each girl's education, so that she will develop into adulthood with an understanding of the Christian faith and other faiths and traditions.



Our purpose is clear:

# TO INSPIRE GIRLS TO BECOME EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

This notion of ‘extraordinary’ means helping each girl to be the best she can be given her unique gifts, talents and passions. It is based on a sense of her making a meaningful contribution to the world, at whatever level and in whatever unique way she can. The notion ‘to inspire’ means to ‘breathe life into’ – to provide opportunities for her to achieve her goals.

## INSPIRATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Our students are at the centre of all we do. We have the privileged opportunity to provide experiences that shape the whole person; we place the growth of our students’ minds at the forefront of their education, through academic pursuits that are underpinned by the nurturing of heart, body and spirit.

We believe in the need to:

- inspire girls to achieve their maximum academic potential through varied learning experiences that engage, excite and challenge as appropriate to each phase of development.
- provide a broad, balanced, vibrant and seamless curriculum that meets the needs of individuals and creates pathways for their future.
- integrate technology in a way that reflects a contemporary, changing society and directly enhances learning.
- provide a nurturing environment where each girl is known as an individual and is cared for and actively encouraged to model the College core shared values.
- inspire girls to participate enthusiastically in the College’s broad range of co-curricular activities.
- inspire girls spiritually and emotionally to empower them to make a positive and productive difference in society.



**Some of the ways we achieve this are:**

Differentiated curriculum delivery with a targeted Gifted and Talented program  
Broad co-curricular program offering sport, performing arts and academic opportunities  
ACHIEVE and You Can Do It programs, teaching resilience and self-awareness

Mentoring and monitoring individual student progress  
Regular Chapel and worship services  
Extensive awards and recognition of student achievement

## INSPIRATIONAL STAFF

Inspirational Staff are people exemplary in; knowledge (mind), passion (heart), action (body) and character (spirit). We are people who are valued for making a difference in, and for, our students and our College.



We believe in the need to:

- inspire others to utilise talents and contribute, through the demonstration of leadership by every staff member in their role.
- engage pathfinders in the pursuit of excellence through Professional Learning Development and Growth.
- foster a vibrant, engaging and collegiate culture by modelling the College core shared values in our everyday interactions.
- align our actions and those of others to support the College’s purpose by putting the interests of the College as a whole before those of the individual.
- motivate students and our colleagues to achieve their potential by demonstrating a willingness to go above and beyond the basic requirements of our roles.
- commit to excellence, through constant reflection of performance and development by each individual and their peers.

**Some of the ways we achieve this are:**

Internal and external professional development opportunities  
Annual reflection of staff performance and development  
Provision of innovative ICT facilities and programs

Inspirational Teacher recognition program  
Building Leadership Capacity program  
Modern staff facilities and amenities

## INSPIRATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

An inspirational environment includes culture, buildings and infrastructure and natural elements. It must be safe, secure, and sustainable, create pride, spark curiosity and inspire learning.

In creating and maintaining an inspirational environment we must ensure:

- we act to retain the College core shared values within our culture.
- we are financially sustainable through appropriate planning, investment, future-funding and risk management processes.
- our grounds and gardens are an inspirational setting for learning, are functional, sustainable and aesthetically pleasing.
- our buildings are stimulating, safe, and provide innovative spaces where we can engage, learn and work.
- our technology-rich environment reflects our goals, is responsive to innovation and allows us to maintain our responsibilities to our community.
- we adopt practices to minimise our environmental footprint and comply with legislative requirements.



**Some of the ways we achieve this are:**

Vibrant and dynamic building masterplan  
Extensive grounds and facilities maintenance program  
Dynamic, responsive ICT program

Strong promotion of College core shared values  
Consistent review of College policies and risks  
Modelling and teaching of sustainable practices

## INSPIRATIONAL AND ENDURING COMMUNITY

An inspirational and enduring community is one that tells our story of shared and individual achievements from which we all draw inspiration.



To nurture an inspirational and enduring community we must ensure:

- we earn and maintain an enduring reputation as a leader in the education of girls so that Penrhos’ credibility as an innovative and forward thinking College is enhanced.
- we embrace and live out the spiritual roots of the College in the Uniting Church.
- we engage and connect with the whole College community – past, present and future – to foster positive and ongoing relationships.

**Some of the ways we achieve this are:**

Holding regular Alumni reunions and community events  
Celebrating significant events on the Christian calendar  
Distributing our community magazine, The Penrhosian, and other publications

Partnerships with community organisations (eg. WASO)  
Engaging Parent Support Groups and volunteers  
Attending country Field Days



**6 Morrison Street Como Western Australia 6152**  
**Locked Bag 690 Como Western Australia 6952**

Telephone: **(08) 9368 9500**

Facsimile: **(08) 9368 9677**

Email: **[feedback@penrhos.wa.edu.au](mailto:feedback@penrhos.wa.edu.au)**

Website: **[www.penrhos.wa.edu.au](http://www.penrhos.wa.edu.au)**

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*Penrhos College is a Uniting Church day and boarding school for girls, Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12*