

SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



St Ives Preparatory School

PROSPECTUS



Headmaster's Introduction

Sydney Grammar School St Ives Preparatory School is a unique educational environment, which caters especially for lively boys who are intellectually curious, creative and display an enthusiasm for learning. We provide a learning environment that is both rich and challenging and encourages independence and deep thinking. We cultivate a culture in which learning is held in high regard and attitude and effort are rewarded.

St Ives Prep is a School of eager boys who ask a lot of questions, who are passionately interested in the world and enjoy looking deeply into subjects to satisfy their own curiosity. This doesn't just happen in our classrooms. Our boys are provided with wonderful opportunities in music, sport, drama, science, literacy, numeracy, languages and more. They are very busy and that is the way they like it. Grammar boys like to be challenged, and there is no better place to be than amongst your peers where diversity of thought is encouraged and respected.

Even though the facilities at St Ives are outstanding - with spacious grounds and large open classrooms, our primary focus is on building connections between people. Our teachers know their boys well and seek to give them opportunities to blossom intellectually,

socially, and emotionally.

We are invested in what sort of men our boys will grow up to become. We are conscious of the privilege and responsibility we have as educators in shaping their character, and instilling values so that they can make a difference in the world. We are intentional about developing a culture where kindness, respect, empathy, and integrity are modelled and woven into the life of the School.

Schools can make extravagant claims and promises. Grammar was founded with a single purpose – the preparation of talented boys for advanced study, ultimately university. We seek to lay a solid foundation that will enable them to flourish as they continue their educational journey wherever it takes them in life.

If you think your son could benefit from what we have to offer, please get in touch with us. You should join one of the regular tours, we would love to hear from you.

Ian Stephens
Headmaster



Pastoral Care

We aim to develop young men who are creative, intuitive thinkers and sensitive to the needs of those around them. The boys are encouraged to think beyond their own needs or wants and to serve others within and beyond our community.

At St Ives Prep, we focus on building relationships and providing many opportunities for boys to feel connected to their community. The boys build friendships within their year group and across the grades through various sporting, musical and social activities, as well as important programmes such as our Peer Support and Buddy Programmes. Our boys learn the importance of forming positive relationships and developing a capacity for optimism and resilience.

Each boy's Form Master takes the time to develop a strong and positive relationship with him. People grow only when they feel supported, safe, and confident in their working environment. This priority is held by all staff thereby ensuring that nurturing connections are formed with the boys as they move through the years.

'Carrington's Code' forms the platform for the School to help build and develop character. The values of Respect, Empathy, Courage, Initiative, and Integrity are integrated in a variety of formal and informal contexts, as boys learn to play and work with each other. Modelling these values is crucial to establishing a School culture that is respectful, kind, and inclusive.

Inquiry

We are born inquiry agents. Right from the earliest ages, we wonder about our world, consider actions, explore viewpoints and experiment with correlation and causation. We, as a society are tinkerers, problem-solvers, and designers. We are, “driven instinctively to study unfamiliar objects, people and events in order to make the new, familiar.” Engel, 2021: 17

From our Preschool classroom right through to Year 6, we have a driving goal to instil inquiry dispositions: theorising, questioning, researching, and working through ideas and issues to gain understandings and courses of action. To do this we need to explicitly teach skills that are associated with these. We build each boy’s self-management toolkit, develop their critical thinking, encourage their creativity of response, teach the skills inherent within effective collaboration; as well as exploring complexity and depth within the topics covered. Our School framework states, “We teach boys to think so they can make confident, informed choices which allow them to consider different viewpoints, reason with evidence, and contribute meaningfully to the world”.

Guided Inquiry (which incorporates explicit teaching of content and skills) enables learners to be actively involved in gathering information, analysing this, and utilising what they have learned to create a solution or path of action. Inquiry enables us to understand something (an idea, an issue, a region, a concept) more deeply.





Curriculum

Sydney Grammar School St Ives Prep aims to educate the 'whole' boy. We provide strong academic foundations through rich, structured, differentiated programmes that build in a love of curiosity and creativity. We also develop skills across all Key Learning Areas to challenge, encourage and inspire each of our boys within all areas of learning - intellectual, musical, artistic, dramatic, linguistic, physical, and social.

There are 19 classes within the Prep School at St Ives: one Preschool class, two classes for Kindergarten to Year 2 and three classes per year for Years 3 to 6. The curriculum is divided into the six Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, History and Geography, Science and Technology, Personal Development, Health, and Physical Education and the Creative and Practical Arts.

Specialist teachers work in Music, Visual Arts, Science, Drama, German, Library, and Personal Development, Health, and Physical Education.

Literacy

“At the heart of everything we do sits a love and appreciation of reading; it enables us to explore, investigate and expand our understandings and create new ideas.” School Framework

Grammar boys love to read. Our School culture revolves around reading, exploring new texts and sharing what we have found. We hold developing a love of literature in every boy as a fundamental priority. Each year, all boys in the School participate in our school-based reading challenge called, ‘Chase The Lion’, racing to see how many books they can devour in a term.

The ability to communicate both orally and in written form are essential skills to future success. Our programmes are rigorous and explicitly taught to build articulate, sensitive, and thoughtful speakers and writers. All boys write each day and have many opportunities to share their developing style within imaginative passages, subtle poetry, creative worlds, persuasive arguments, and interesting factual research.

The School Library, at the centre of the School, physically and allegorically, provides a wide variety of books; and our librarians are vital aids in the choice of the next fascinating read. A Grammar boy isn’t complete without his current book tucked under one arm.





Mathematics

At the core of our Mathematics programmes sit reasoning, connection, generality, creativity, and the search for elegance of method. The boys dive into mathematical investigations examining foundational ideas about mathematics and the world around us, utilising open-ended questions to take the thinking beyond a simple question and answer, and investigating real mathematical contexts.

Teachers utilise explicit teaching and the scaffolding of mathematical methodologies to build skill application and maths investigations, open-ended problem solving and dialogic learning to develop conceptual understandings and the connections between different subsets within Mathematics.

Science

If you venture into one of the dedicated Science laboratories, our Preschool to Year 6 classrooms or out into the lush Science gardens, you will find our boys actively investigating their world. Deeply engaging with hands-on materials to observe, hypothesise, and explore factors, boys build important skills and scientific conceptual understandings; all the while guided by specialist teachers.

Even our youngest learners ask, 'big questions,' which often stretch far beyond curriculum outcomes in their complexity. This pervasive interest for 'finding out' is integral to our programming and nurtured by facilitators who are life-long learners themselves.

Not surprisingly, many Grammar boys go on to choose careers and hobbies in the sciences; it is in these opening forays into science wonderings and investigation that we sow the seeds for future scientists, creative scientific problem solving and innovative exploration.





Preschool at Grammar

Growing brave hearts and keen minds begins at Sydney Grammar School with our dedicated staff in our purpose-built Preschool environment. Our flexible, interest-driven programmes are designed to engage the boys to think deeply and wonder about their world. ‘Aha’ moments abound as ideas are sparked, celebrated, and refined.

Early reading, writing and numeracy skills are developed through our specialised and differentiated curriculum. This early targeted focus on building understanding through authentic and meaningful experiences, nurtures boys to progress confidently through our School. Over the years, they become competent readers, writers, thinkers, and problem solvers, who can build strong friendships and demonstrate a resilient approach to all aspects of their learning journey.

We believe that children are naturally curious and enthusiastic to discover the world around them. To harness this inherent disposition, we teach our boys to explore, imagine, and make connections. Together, we investigate their interests, and they learn to make observations through engaging artefacts, shared literature, and guided inquiry.

This open-ended approach, combined with daily, play-

based experiences, helps boys to develop important thinking and socialising skills.

Working with teachers and their peers to examine topic concepts, they construct meaning, solve problems, make decisions, ask questions, organise information and create plans.

We know that boys are energised and motivated by movement and encourage an experiential/kinaesthetic learning modality to support boys’ natural biochemistry. Promoting active lessons, short daily Sport sessions and outdoor playtime, helps our boys to remain engaged and focused.

Building Strong Foundations

Our programmes all pivot around developing strong dispositions that foster learning and growth. Curiosity, persistence, and creativity of response, as well as being reflective and opened minded are all explicitly taught and continuously encouraged and enabled.

These dispositions, skill sets, and character traits are so important for lifelong learning, which is why our Preschool to Year 2 programmes at St Ives Prep are so powerful; setting boys on a path for sustained academic growth.





Sport

Sport is a vital element in a boy's education and our programmes provide opportunities to develop physical wellbeing and confidence, to experience teamwork and connect socially. The expansive grounds and facilities allow boys from Preschool to Year 6 to participate in the busy sporting programme, providing the perfect playground for our active boys.

Our youngest boys focus on developing fundamental movement skills, whilst building positive relationships that promote wellbeing. Adopting an active lifestyle is important from an early age and, beginning in Year 3, boys represent St Ives Prep in sporting games against other independent schools.

Camps are an exciting part of the curriculum and boys enjoy time away from home with teachers and instructors in a supportive and challenging environment. Stepping outside one's comfort zone and trying something new is always more fun when your mates are there, cheering you on, feeling equally eager themselves to conquer the range of activities on offer.

Music

Music is interwoven into the DNA of every Grammar boy and has a principal place in the culture of the whole School.

Our thriving Music Department creates opportunities for all pupils. It offers each boy the opportunity to take an active part in the classroom Music Programme, enhanced by Kodály pedagogy and focusing on developing performance, listening, and composing skills.

All boys have the opportunity to enrol in individual instrumental lessons on most orchestral instruments with specialist tutors.

We also offer a range of ensembles including choirs, chamber groups, string, woodwind and brass ensembles, and a full symphony orchestra. Recitals and concerts are held regularly and there are also opportunities for musical tours away from the School.



Drama

Drama provides opportunities for every boy, regardless of ability, to explore his creativity, to learn more about himself, to learn to work productively and supportively with others and to build confidence and self-esteem. Through Drama, the boys begin to understand how others think, feel, and respond to the world and so enlarge their understanding of others.

Class performances and dramatic projects give every boy an opportunity to perform and each year a major production is staged. Our recent shows have included *Hansel and Gretel*, *Twelfth Night*, and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.



Visual Arts

Boys are encouraged both to create and to appreciate art in our purpose-built Art Space. In lessons they encounter a wide range of artwork from different periods and cultures. The specialist Art teacher emphasises the development of technical skills and boys are taught to think, to co-operate and to solve aesthetic problems. Regular displays provide an opportunity for the boys to share their artwork and to appreciate the work of their peers. Art Club also offers our passionate artists an opportunity to build a body of work and explore their interests in all things artistic.



German

German's phonetic nature coupled with its interesting long words and unusual sentence structures make it a language that you can engage with and quickly master. With so many words in common with English and other European languages, boys can gain confidence to speak, write and read German from an early age.

As they begin German in Kindergarten and carry it through all their Primary years, the boys gain a respect for a culture other than their own and an understanding of their place in our global community. This German language base prepares them for the myriad of modern and classical languages on offer at College Street.



Learning Extension, Enrichment and Support

Our boys are bright, sensitive, and able individuals who display a passion for learning and a compassion and empathy for others. Most importantly, our boys are educated with a bigger picture in mind. We focus specifically on developing these thinking and learning traits and nurturing the boys' potential to develop into thoughtful young men.

All boys deserve an enriched educational experience, which is exactly what Grammar offers. A specialised team of learning extension, enrichment and support teachers work with boys across the School in many different subjects.

Our programmes offer a fast-paced, complex and in-depth look at content, concepts, and skills. By providing for boys in a variety of diverse ways we can meet their specific learning needs and therefore nurture them in a supportive academic setting, as they develop their thinking, skills, and understandings.

Boys attend smaller, fluid group sessions to target skills in specific areas of literacy and numeracy. Boys sometimes require a varied pace for mastery, a range of scaffolds and stimuli, a multisensory approach, added encouragement or more individualised attention.



Admission

Interested parents should contact the Enrolments Secretary by telephone on 8302 5200 or alternatively, please email stivesenrolments@sydgram.nsw.edu.au or visit our website stives.sydgram.nsw.edu.au where you will find our application forms.

The main points of entry into the School are Preschool, Kindergarten and Year 3. Each year the School has a limited number of places available in Years 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. Enquiries regarding these years can be made at any time.

For those boys entering Preschool or Kindergarten, an informal play-based assessment establishes readiness for our programme. Assessments for boys in Years 3-6 become more formalised as a boy gets older. Boys who perform well in their entrance assessment are invited for an interview with the Headmaster, accompanied by their parents.



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