



Pittwater House

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School Prospectus



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Pittwater
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A message from our Principal



Thank you for considering Pittwater House School for the education of your child.

Deciding on a school for your child is an important decision so I hope the information in this Prospectus provides an insight into what truly differentiates Pittwater House and what we can offer your family.

Pittwater House is unlike any other school on the Northern Beaches. Not only are we an independent, non-denominational school, but we also offer a unique twin school environment in which the boys and girls mix on the same campus but are predominantly educated in single-sex classes. Our structure, also referred to as parallel education, provides our students the best of both worlds.

We know the typical 'one size fits all' approach cannot meet the individual needs of each student. For this reason, Pittwater House also deliberately keeps class sizes and the overall School population at a level where we can foster individual attention for each student and have a true understanding of each student's abilities, talents and needs.

This Prospectus will give you a good general overview of the School but to get a true feeling for what Pittwater House can offer your family, I would encourage you to talk to our Registrar and book one of our School tours. Tours are tailored to be age-appropriate to your child and are hosted by a Head of School or myself.

I hope to meet you soon.

Nancy Hillier

Dr Nancy Hillier
Principal

BA DipEd MEdSt DEd MACE MACEL MAICD



Core Values

Our Values are the guiding principles for Pittwater House.

Pittwater House espouses the following six Core Values aptly represented by the mnemonic 'HEROIC'.

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

We challenge our community to develop and practise the qualities of kindness, honesty, moral courage and good character.

EXCELLENCE

We aspire to excellence in effort, determination and dedication in academics and all our endeavours.

RESPECT AND CARE

We nurture and model respect and care in self, others and our environment. We respect and care for individuals for who they are.

ORIGINS

We celebrate the journey of our traditions.

INNOVATION

We encourage originality, enquiry, risk-taking and critical thinking where students have the courage to imagine.

COMMUNITY

We connect our students, families, staff and alumni.

Each interlinked Value provides guidance to students and staff on how to respond to challenges and opportunities that present in our daily lives.



Twin schooling

We know that boys and girls learn differently and we're aware of the benefits of boys and girls mixing in a co-educational environment – so we brought together the best of both worlds.

Our approach to education allows students to be engaged in learning styles appropriate to their gender in their early years of education and the opportunity of a co-educational environment as they prepare for higher education and life beyond school.

Within Pittwater House School there is an Early Childhood Centre for 3 to 5 year-olds, a Junior School (Kindergarten to Year 6) and a Senior School (Years 7 to 12) all on one campus.

The [Early Childhood Centre](#) offers Pre-school education for 3 to 5 year-old children. It is a co-educational environment with two age-appropriate classes, the Bilbies for 3 to 4 year-olds and Possums for 4 to 5 year-olds. Our team of qualified and experienced educators support play-based and interest-led learning to provide each child with the foundations for life-long learning.

Our [Junior School](#) provides a primary school education for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. It offers single-sex classes for the girls in the Junior Girls' College and likewise for the boys in the Preparatory School.

Research tells us that boys and girls learn differently, particularly during their formative years. Pittwater House teachers structure their lessons with gender-specific learning traits in mind and provide engaging subject matter tailored by gender. Using this approach, students benefit from less distraction, greater achievements and improved self-esteem in the classroom.

Outside the classroom, Junior School children socialise in stage-appropriate co-educational playgrounds and participate in co-educational school events and co-curricular activities.

Our [Senior School](#) caters for high school students from Years 7 to 12. Students are taught in single-sex classes in Years 7 and 8 with one co-educational elective. In Year 9 the classes become co-educational for three elective subjects, while Form classes and core subjects such as Mathematics, English, Geography, History, Science and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) remain single-sex. By Years 11 and 12 most classes are fully co-educational, with the exception of Form classes.

Throughout Senior School, students have ample opportunity to connect with their co-ed peers recreationally during class breaks and through pursuits such as Creative Arts, Clubs (Debating, Chess, Language and Programming), Cadets, leadership positions and programs such as Duke of Edinburgh and World Challenge.

Neurological research suggests that completely separating boys and girls changes their ability to empathise and understand the other gender. We therefore believe that this model creates a respectful learning environment in which boys and girls are equal in their pursuits and leave school feeling prepared for life at university, the workplace and beyond.



Room to move

Pittwater House has more open and green space on campus per student than any other private school on the Northern Beaches.

Our 3.5-hectare campus provides an abundance of space, impressive sporting facilities and play areas for all ages from Pre-school to Year 12.

Pittwater House sporting facilities include:

- **Swimming pool:** An eight lane, short-course, heated, outdoor pool.
- **Oval:** A full sized playing field for rugby, cricket, soccer, softball and all types of athletics.
- **Outdoor courts:** Tennis, basketball and netball courts.
- **Indoor sport complex:** Regulation sized, rubberised courts for basketball, netball and futsal.
- **Gym:** A fully equipped gym and weights room.

We also boast multiple playgrounds for students to run, play and develop. We offer dedicated playgrounds for each age group:

- The Early Childhood Centre has its own secure play area.
- Kindergarten to Year 2 students have their own specific playground, with age-appropriate play equipment.
- Years 3 to 6 students also have their own playground suited to older Junior School students.
- Junior School and Senior School students have separate access to the oval during their staggered lunch breaks.
- In addition to the oval, the Senior School students also have access to an amphitheatre, a covered courtyard and exclusive use of common rooms in Year 12.



Nurturing

We believe every child deserves to have the confidence to succeed in a safe and secure environment.

Pittwater House has key programs and strategies to ensure your child feels supported emotionally, physically and academically at every stage of their journey throughout their school life.

Research suggests that students perform better in all subjects, at all levels, in smaller classes which is why we purposely keep our student population small and maintain lower student-teacher ratios. Enrolment is capped to ensure teachers can closely monitor each child's development both in class and with regular formal reviews with parents. This not only provides greater opportunity for positive relationship-building between teacher and student but also results in students being offered the chance to try new experiences that may pass them by at a larger school.

In education, it has been proven that teaching quality and school leadership are the two most important factors in raising student achievement. To nurture the continued professional growth of our teachers Pittwater House employs a dedicated Director of Teacher Development. Our goal is to ensure that our teachers are continuous learners, student focused and are supported with

the latest research and collective strength to enhance the outcomes of our students at all levels from Kindergarten to Year 12. This is achieved through weekly professional learning time with cross curricular learning groups that span all year groups to allow teachers to benefit from their collective wealth of knowledge and skills. These sessions are complemented with mentorship programs, staff scholarships and online workshops.

The Pittwater House Core Values include Honesty and Integrity and Respect and Care – in one's self, others and the environment. We do not tolerate bullying and we have systems in place that support the right for every student to enjoy school in a safe and respectful environment.

For students who require support, we offer a team that includes Pastoral Care Teachers, two on-site nurses and student mentors. We also provide the services of two registered psychologists to provide confidential counselling support to our students and their families.

Pittwater House is a community-minded school that realises the vast psychological and physical benefits of building connections between our students, families, staff and alumni.

The Pittwater House Parents' Association and Pittwater House Alumni Association are a passionate and dedicated network of families and past students that contribute generously and enthusiastically with their time and skills for the benefit of the Pittwater House community as a whole.

Wellbeing

Your child's wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. This is why we offer a series of specialised wellbeing programs which are designed to build emotionally resilient, community minded young people from our youngest charges in the Early Childhood Centre through to our Year 12 students preparing for life beyond school.

Early Childhood Centre and Junior School

- **Buddy Program:** Every student is paired with a buddy; an older student to befriend and help guide the younger children through the transitions and early years of their school life. Regular pastoral sessions are utilised to foster these relationships.
- **Strengths and Reflections:** 24 individual character strengths are explored and practiced ensuring students can recognise their own character strengths, identify strengths they admire in others and determine those they aspire to develop.
- **Bounceback:** Resources produced by qualified psychologists and other education experts to proactively help students develop a stronger sense of wellbeing, providing strategies to build resilience, confidence and success.

Senior School

- **Connections (Grammar, Years 7-10) and Empowerment (Girls' College, Years 7-10):** These programs form the cornerstone of the Senior School wellbeing program. The overarching goal is the development of self-respect and self-identity, and the recognition of the value of other people, giving students a greater sense of self and their worth as an individual and as part of society.
- **World Challenge (Years 7-10):** World Challenge helps young people explore their limits and grow in confidence, resourcefulness and global citizenship through life-changing expeditions to global locations.
- **Men of Honour (Grammar, Year 10):** A program by Glen Gerreyn that addresses the key issues associated with developing masculinity and asks the boys to make a commitment about the sort of man they wish to be and to fulfil those commitments to being men of honour.
- **Lighthouse Program (Year 10):** The goal is to have students who are engaged in the school community, who are ready to accept the responsibility of becoming role models for younger students. Involvement in

extra-curricular activities, community service, presenting in Form and at Assembly, uniform presentation and House participation are all common aspects of the program.

- **Leadership Program (Year 11):** We believe everyone has the potential to be a great leader. The Leadership Program helps students develop the confidence, skills and professionalism to be an inspiring leader and the opportunity to be chosen as a student leader in Year 12.

Student Led Peer Support Programs

- **CUP - College Union Program:** Vertical wellbeing groups in which issues pertinent to young women are discussed in a nurturing and safe environment. Forging friendships between the year groups results in a College community that is dynamic, close and respectful.
- **Big Program:** A boy's wellbeing program founded by two former Grammar school leaders, based on the premise that real strength and courage is knowing when to ask for help when going it alone is too difficult. Facilitated by Year 11 and 12 students in small groups of boys from Years 7 to 10.



Academic growth

Our goal is to amplify each student's academic growth – regardless of their starting point.

Pittwater House has a reputation for delivering strong academic results. In fact, over 90% of our Class of 2017 students that applied for University were granted placement in their first-choice course, in the first round of offers.

Our focus is strategically directed towards providing an education that will furnish students with strong academic grades, the critical thinking tools and the technology skills they will need to achieve their personal best throughout school and beyond.

Our small class sizes allow every child to receive exceptional attention from their teachers. We use data at all stages to check that students are reaching their academic potential and to direct our efforts where they are most needed to enhance their abilities.

Gifted and Talented Students

Our specialist Gifted and Talented teachers work with students and their families to ensure the best complement between educational needs and curriculum offerings. This collaboration results in an educational program that identifies students' strengths and areas of interest to maximise their

engagement and provide them with real-world opportunities.

In Senior School we offer a gifted and talented stream for Maths and Science classes. Our specialist Gifted and Talented teachers liaise with class teachers and mentor students to enable them to work at a faster pace and explore higher level thinking.

Gifted students may accelerate in a single subject, or, in special cases where a student is gifted across all key learning areas and has demonstrated social maturity, they may be accelerated an entire year.

Our students also have the opportunity for extension and enrichment through a number of programs and competitions both within the school and externally. These include:

- G.A.T.E.WAYS Program (Junior School)
- The da Vinci Decathlon (Years 5 to 10)
- GATEway 8 Challenge (Years 5 to 10)
- Future Problem Solving Program (Years 7 and 8), and
- Various Mathematics, Informatics and Science Competitions.

Learning Support

If your child needs additional learning assistance, we provide a supportive and collaborative approach. We work in close liaison with families to create a learning environment where students can progress at their own rate.

We recognise that all students are individuals with varying needs, so we offer a variety of learning support systems, including:

- In-class support and team teaching
- Class/student observations and teacher feedback
- Small group and individual remedial programs before/after and during school
- Curriculum differentiation and adjustment in the mainstream classroom
- Homework support and study skills
- Adjusted curriculum and assessments
- Professional learning for teachers and families.

Families with Gifted and Talented or Learning Support needs will need to supply a psychometric assessment or specialist report from an educational psychologist or psychiatrist to accompany the application.



Creative Arts

Creative Arts offers students the opportunity to express themselves through creativity whilst holistically understanding the theory behind each course.

Music

The Pittwater House music program provides students with the opportunity to learn an instrument and develop an appreciation of a wide range of musical styles. Our music program is available to all students from Kindergarten.

The study of music continues into the Senior School as part of the curriculum in Year 7 and 8. After that, students can develop their passion for music by selecting music electives in Year 9 and 10. In their final years of school, Music 1, Music 2 and Music Extension are also offered.

Drama

At Pittwater House we provide students with the opportunity to develop their self-confidence through drama, mime, improvisation, monologues and storytelling. These are the core focus areas within Drama.

Drama is provided as a co-curricular subject for Junior School students (Drama Club) and a curriculum-related elective for Senior School students.

Senior School students are also offered the opportunity to be

involved in the school's major productions. Opportunities also go beyond performance to stage make-up, set design, sound and lighting.

Dance

Dance is offered as a curriculum-related subject for students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and as an elective for Years 7 to 12.

The Dance program caters for beginners through to experienced dancers with a focus on the history of dance and performance of various dance styles. Students learn choreography and perform their own dances. Students also have the opportunity to audition for our very successful Eisteddfod groups.

Visual Arts

Visual Arts fosters interest and enjoyment in the making and studying of media. It also does more than that – it can help students connect more deeply to the world and open them up to new ways of seeing. In contemporary societies, many kinds of knowledge are managed through imagery and visual codes and much of our students' knowledge is acquired this way. Visual Arts empowers students to engage in

visual forms of communication and helps students to interpret such information.

Photography and Digital Media

Elective photography is available for Senior students in Years 9 and 10. The School offers students the opportunity to explore photography in today's world.



Sporting life

Pittwater House believes active students are confident students, so we maintain an outstanding sporting program.

Pittwater House is home to an eight-lane short course heated swimming pool – which plays host to our own swimming carnivals and meets, water polo games and swimming as part of PDHPE.

We also have a central playing field and all-weather courts on campus which cater for tennis, netball, basketball, rugby, cricket, athletics, softball and soccer.

Our outstanding sports complex further enhances our numerous sports programs. The sports complex is used for many sporting activities such as basketball, futsal, dancing, gymnastics and other school activities.

Representative sport is not compulsory however participation is very much encouraged. Sporting teams at Pittwater House are managed by members of our staff and are trained by experienced players or professional coaches.

Each season, the School fields large teams for athletics and swimming in local inter-school competitions. These competitions provide the pathway to regional, state and national representation and we

have a long history of students achieving at this elite level.

As part of our commitment to working within the wider school community, all students are given the opportunity to trial for Combined Independent Schools Sports Council (CIS) representation in all sports, although it's important to note that some sports may have skill requirements for participation.

For more information on the range of sporting opportunities we can offer your child, please visit the co-curricular sports page on our website.



Broader curriculum

To achieve a balanced, well-rounded education, children are provided with the opportunity to explore more at school.

Our co-curricular programs are designed especially for our students and are run by staff members or specialist providers who can work with individuals to broaden their experiences and assist them in reaching their goals.

Where applicable, Pittwater House co-curricular programs lead into or incorporate community and state-wide competitions.

Many of our Senior School co-curricular activities build on those offered in our Junior School and allow students to continue building skills in those areas or perhaps pick up a new skill.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is an internationally recognised program designed to help children maximise their potential.

The program encompasses four sections: Volunteering, Skill, Physical Recreation and Adventure, with specific tasks and undertakings being decided by the participant. This means that every Award is unique, based on the interests and desires of the individual undertaking the Award.

Community Service

Pittwater House students are involved in a wide variety of community service programs. Each year the Senior Prefects nominate a charity they would like to support and co-ordinate a range of events and programs to raise money to assist with its objectives.

World Challenge educational expeditions are also available to students in Years 8, 9 and 10. The expeditions include fundraising, planning and skill development which all culminate in visiting a developing country to assist with community projects.

Cadets

The Pittwater House Cadet Unit is a voluntary co-curricular activity for Pittwater House students in Years 7 to 12. The Cadet Unit conducts courses which provide cadets with the chance to develop skills and qualities that add to their everyday abilities and develop them as the leaders of tomorrow.

Cadet activities include navigation, field craft, first aid, communications, fitness, ropes course, ceremonial drill, teamwork and leadership practice.

Outdoor Education Program

The program supports and reinforces the School's pastoral curriculum in the most practical of settings. It deals directly with concepts such as leadership, team building, initiative, resilience, problem solving and the value of working towards a common goal.

Most programs are hosted in a semi-remote location to remove students from their everyday life. The Outdoor Education Program runs from Years 2 to 11 and is a sequential program (i.e. each phase builds on and reinforces previous learning). Each Year group has its own tailored program that aims to extend the pastoral (and where practical academic) elements of the school curriculum into a guided 'learning by doing' environment outdoors.



Services

With the extra services on offer at Pittwater House we endeavour to make our families' lives easier.

Bus Fleet

Students can travel to and from the campus on one of the School's private buses or on the public bus services. The School takes pride in its fleet, all of which are air-conditioned, fitted with seat belts and driven by our own staff drivers for added safety. The Pittwater House bus fleet makes travelling to and from school, on excursions and to co-curricular activities an easy and safe experience.

Further information on our bus routes can be found on our website.

Uniform Shop

The Pittwater House uniform shop is located on campus for your convenience.

Health Centre

To ensure we offer families the best health services possible, we provide a Health Centre with a registered nurse on duty each school day from 8.30am to 3.30pm.

Extended School Care

Pittwater House provides quality extended school care in partnership with an accredited service provider. After school care is on the school grounds which ensures a seamless transition from classroom into a relaxed and friendly environment. Care is offered for children from Pre-school to Year 5.



Enrolling your child

To get a good feel for Pittwater House, we encourage you to visit the school for a tour.

Key Entry Points into the School are:

Early Childhood Centre

Enrolling children from age 3, Pittwater House offers separate structured programs for 3 and 4 year olds. Features include: tertiary trained staff, a specialised and intensive transition program into school, excellent facilities and a quality education program designed around the Early Years Learning Framework.

Junior School

Our smaller class sizes, twin schooling approach and nurturing environment provide the perfect environment to start school life.

Kindergarten and Year 5 are the key entry points for the Junior School but admission may be possible in other years depending on availability.

Senior School

The Senior School at Pittwater House includes the Boys' Grammar School and the Girls' College. Students are taught in single-sex classes until Year 8, after which they are gradually merged into co-educational classes.

Year 7 is the key entry point for the Senior School but admission may be possible in other years, depending on availability.

When to Enrol

To keep our class sizes small, Pittwater House has a limited student intake. At times, Year groups may be at capacity in which case enrolments are placed on a waitlist. Enrolment is encouraged a minimum of 2 years prior to commencement. Our Registrar can guide you on our enrolment process and availability.

Next Step

Join one of our weekly tours during the school term to experience the Pittwater House difference.

To book a tour or find out more please contact our Registrar during school hours.

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Pittwater House

Want to find out more?

Book a tour - Experience true balance in education first hand. For a tour of our campus in action contact our Registrar or book online via our website.



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