what the world needs is a wise lovable and well-educated woman
Loreto Kirribilli is an independent Catholic day school with an enrolment of approximately 1040 girls from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The school is one of many around the world directed by the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM). The IBVM was founded in 1609 by an Englishwoman, Mary Ward, at a time when there was almost no education for women. She modelled her Institute on the spirituality of the Jesuits, founded by St Ignatius. The Institute is dedicated to the care of faith through education and by ‘any other means congruous to the times.’ (Mary Ward, 1585-1645). Today, Loreto sisters worldwide live out their commitment to finding God in all things through their work in indigenous communities, with refugees, in parish ministry, counselling, social welfare, adult faith education, tertiary colleges, universities and seminaries.

The first Australian Loreto school was established at Ballarat, Victoria, in 1875. The first in New South Wales opened at Randwick in 1892. This school moved to Kirribilli in 1901 and to the present site in 1907.

Loreto Kirribilli is one of seven Australian Loreto schools united by a common vision to offer a Catholic education which liberates, empowers and motivates students to use their individual gifts with confidence, creativity and generosity in loving and responsible service.” (Loreto Schools of Australia Mission Statement, 2010).

At Loreto Kirribilli we are very proud of our four hundred year heritage. We believe it is our privilege to continue the work of Mary Ward and of Mother Gonzaga Barry.
Philosophy

The Loreto Kirribilli tradition combines a strong program of religious education and pastoral care, excellent academic outcomes and a wide choice of co-curricular activities supported by talented and experienced staff and an up-to-date, fully-equipped campus.

Our educational philosophy, based on the belief that women can excel, with an emphasis on social concern and student leadership, helps us encourage these qualities in our girls – and in our teaching and non-teaching staff.

At Loreto Kirribilli we believe that the intangibles really matter: verity, justice, sincerity, felicity, freedom of mind and spirit. Our goal is to nurture these qualities in our students to help them develop into mature, well-educated, socially responsible Catholic women.
Verity (the search for truth) and justice (social conscience and critical awareness) are learned by example more than precept. We have gathered together an intelligent, committed, caring staff. This includes our non-teaching staff who are crucial to the happy atmosphere of our school.

The wisdom of verity and justice includes learning ways of assessing choices, practising making sound and fair decisions, exercising empathy and compassion. This way of thinking can be directly encouraged.

Our pastoral care is carefully tailored to suit the needs of each age group. We are particularly proud of the way our care for students’ wellbeing is fully integrated with the normal curriculum, so that ‘wisdom’ is not an ‘add on’ which can be discarded or ignored, but is integral to how Loreto girls learn to think and act.

“Be such as we appear and appear such as we are.”
Mary Ward
Religious Education

Our Religious Education Program is the foundation of our school year and goes beyond the formal academic Religious Education curriculum. Loreto is a Catholic school: liturgy, reflection, school retreats, parent/daughter Eucharists, Community Service and Social Justice Programs combine to create an atmosphere where we hope Christ is an everyday presence in our girls’ lives.

We want each girl to have confidence in her ability to combine her Catholic faith and her learning to make sense of and a difference to her world.

“Love verity, seek knowledge, not for themselves but for the end they bring you to which is God, then you will be happy and able to profit yourself and others.”

Mary Ward
A supportive and flexible net of care is woven around our girls from their first day at Loreto.

Mary Ward believed that women ‘should be such as we appear and appear such as we are’. This ideal was her definition of sincerity. To become a lovable and sincere adult, a child must be loved, appreciated, guided and disciplined.

**Pastoral Care**

All teachers are committed to the care of their students in every class. Classroom teachers in the Junior School take primary responsibility for Pastoral Care. In the Senior School, Homeroom teachers, supported by the Year Co-ordinators and Academic Advisors fulfill this role. There also are School Counsellors for Kindergarten through to Year 12.

Loreto has implemented the restorative justice approach for issues of behaviour management. This reflects the school’s belief in the importance of personal responsibility and quality relationships. Working in harmony with this approach is our positive education program. This brings together the values of the Loreto Charism – Felicity, Freedom, Sincerity and Verity in particular – together with an understanding of human growth which is focussed on a multi-faceted framework of well-being. Underpinned by extensive scientific research, positive psychology, as it is known, is being increasingly adopted in learning communities throughout the world.

New students are introduced to Loreto Kirribilli with an Orientation Day and Year 7 Induction Day. This enables students to meet fellow classmates and feel confident in their new surroundings. In those first weeks at a new school, it is comforting to know you also have senior students who look after you.

Each girl is a member of one of four Houses – Barry, Heaton, Milson or Ward. Working together for House events helps create a spirited community and fosters friendly competition.
Student Leadership

Loreto Kirribilli is committed to the development of the leadership potential of each student. Through compassionate service girls are encouraged to share their gifts and challenge unjust structures.

A leadership model that includes the Student Executive, House Leaders and the Student Representative Council (SRC) is in place in the Senior School and the Junior School. Further student representation from Years 7 to 12 can be seen through the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Council (JPIC), and the Liturgy Council. Other student-led Councils in the Senior School include: Creative Arts, Debating and Public Speaking, Light, Sound and Stage, Performing Arts and Year 7.

Elected and nominated student leaders serve in a way that demonstrates Loreto’s emphasis on continuing Mary Ward’s belief in the Ignatian spirituality of discernment built on experience, action and reflection.

The School Community

Staff, students, ex-students and parents all contribute to the Loreto Kirribilli community. Whether it is coaching a sporting team, helping our Parents and Friends Association or attending our family liturgies, school concerts and the other events which make up our school year, the participation of parents is crucial to strengthening our school spirit and the formation of faith.

Our ex-students also contribute to that spirit. Loreto girls are part of an international community bound together by the 400-year-old traditions of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our ex-students are proud of that bond and of their school. Their support is ongoing.

We are fortunate that when they are able, sisters of the IBVM are regular visitors and participants in school activities.
Well educated...

For a mind to be free, it must be open to knowledge and learning.

At Loreto Kirribilli we believe in education that suits the needs of the student, as reflected in the Loreto Kirribilli Learning Principles. We are not academically selective and encourage extension at every level of ability.

Mary Ward was wise when she foresaw the need to change education for women to be ‘congruous with the times’.

Loreto Kirribilli always strives to provide for the changing needs of our students. For education to be relevant in any age, it must try to provide the best possible equipment and surroundings, this means up-to-date information and communication technologies, as well as purpose built laboratories, library, arts and music facilities.

Our Academic Support unit specifically targets students with mild intellectual disabilities. These students are offered an individual education program while encouraged to participate in mainstream classes and the school’s activities wherever possible.

Gifted and Talented

Loreto Kirribilli provides a holistic educational experience for girls who have been identified as gifted and talented learners. Opportunities exist for in class extension or enrichment to suit a student’s strengths or interests. Acceleration is available for skilled mathematics students and a dedicated course is on offer for bright students who are interested in engaging with global issues and critical problem solving.

Extra curricular options such as the Da Vinci Decathlon and the Philosothon seek to connect the girls with like-minded students in rich learning situations. Loreto Kirribilli also works to support the social and emotional needs of gifted students with a program that focuses on self-knowledge and personal growth.
“what the world needs is a wise
lovable and well-educated woman.”

Mother Gonzaga Barry, the first leader of the IBVM in Australia
Junior School

The Religious Education Program underpins our Junior School curriculum. Jesus and the Gospel message are central to faith development and work hand in hand with pastoral care.

The Pastoral Program is planned to provide each Year group, from Kindergarten, with information, support and challenges suitable to their needs.

We encourage in our girls a delight in beauty and felicity as gifts of God, so that creativity in music, drama, art, sport, writing and critical thinking becomes part of their normal day.
Senior School

Loreto Kirribilli offers a broad curriculum suitable for girls at all levels of academic ability.

Our information and communication technology facilities, performing arts studios, visual arts centre, food technology kitchen, science and design laboratories are all fully equipped to allow Loreto girls to fully extend their artistic and academic abilities.

All subject areas are supported by an excellent library, newly reconstructed and extended with flexible spaces, furniture and technology with access to both our intranet and the internet.

Students have access to a large suite of digital resources in all classrooms. These include laptops, tablets, interactive whiteboards, digital cameras and resources from our extensive on-line library and from external sources. Many of these online subscriptions and resources are also available from home.

In the Senior School, creative talents are encouraged to the full: Art, Drama, Music, Debating and Public Speaking are all strongly emphasised at Loreto Kirribilli and are nurtured at every level of talent, from those who just want to have fun to those considering a career in the Arts.

The school Careers Advisor organises Career events with various guest speakers, visits to universities and colleges, as well as providing individual career guidance to students in Years 10-12.

“this is verity - to do what we have to do well”
Mary Ward
Music

Students are encouraged to join Senior or Junior Orchestras, Senior or Junior Choirs, Flute Ensemble, Concert Band, Stage Band or Chamber Strings Group. They may also take private instrumental or vocal tuition as electives.

Loreto’s Senior School Music Festival is an intrinsic part of the school’s tradition. Adjudications take place over several weeks and culminate in a formal concert before family and friends. Every senior girl participates in the finale item of the concert.

The Festival epitomises the Loreto attitude to the arts: excellence should be striven for, but participation for the joy of it is the heart of creativity. Every girl is taught to enjoy the delight of participation as well as the satisfaction of expertise.

In the Junior School, the same emphasis on participation comes through the annual Junior School Musical.
**Drama**

Loreto Kirribilli’s facilities are extensive including a 250 seat auditorium, large drama studio space and multi-purpose foyer. Both the Auditorium and Centenary Hall are equipped with full lighting and sound facilities. Stage productions in the Senior School are part of elective Drama course work or of the Drama Festival, an interhouse competition of four plays led by the Drama Captains. Students involved in these productions are able to take on a variety of responsibilities including direction, performance, design and technical operation.

**Challenges for the Mind**

Chess Club, Da Vinci Decathlon, Mock Trial, Murder under the Microscope, Future Problem Solving, Streamwatch – there are many opportunities for the girl whose main delight lies in the realms of logic. Teams are established and mentored from Years 5-11 to compete in a variety of disciplines which provide exciting challenges.

**The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme**

Loreto Kirribilli supports the many girls who take the opportunity to extend themselves mentally and physically through the challenges of this internationally accredited program. Gold, Silver and Bronze levels can be achieved from Years 9-12.

**Sport**

Felicity can be strongly expressed through movement, teamwork and physical achievement. Team sports are encouraged and are an expression of a vigorous school spirit. Our girls participate in a wide range of sports, such as athletics, basketball, cross country, equestrian, hockey, netball, rowing, soccer, swimming, Tae Kwon Do, tennis, touch football and volleyball. Annual skiing trips and competitions are also available.

**Art**

Our first new building on the site since 1991 and the first land acquisition since 1958, The Marian Centre, offers seven additional classrooms, specialised Visual Art learning spaces, offices and storage. The building is named to celebrate our devotion to Mary, mother of Jesus. In addition to the Visual Arts and Photographic and Digital Media classes in the formal curriculum, students may join Art Club in Year 7 and attend drawing classes. The Junior School also has specialist Art facilities.

**The Spoken Word**

Loreto Kirribilli encourages excellence in Debating and Public Speaking. Loreto girls participate in a number of Debating and Public Speaking competitions, both internal and external. These include the Inter-School Mock Trial competition run by the Law Society of NSW, The Catholic Schools Debating Association Competitions, Archdale competition and ISDA competition.
Social Justice

Our students are encouraged to make a difference, to give to others and to be outspoken on issues of justice and equality. Social justice activities, with a focus on the underprivileged and disadvantaged in our society, run throughout the school year. Led by the JPIC student representatives, there are three annual K-12 appeals: May Day flowers for James Milson Nursing Home, Welcome Baskets for refugee families and, Christmas Hampers for a Women’s Refuge.

Year 7-10 each have a Mission for Justice project. The senior student body unites in prayer to raise awareness and funds for the chosen cause.

Loreto has ongoing commitments, such as the Benenson Society which advocates for human rights and attracts up to 100 students every week.

Students in Years 10 to 12 volunteer on a rostered basis to support the work of Vinnies through Brekky Van (a program serving breakfast to the homeless in central Sydney), Buddies Day, Night Patrol and North Sydney Vinnies Store.

Loreto Kirribilli is also a significant supporter of the annual Red Shield Appeal.

An indigenous immersion experience is also offered to Year 11 students who travel to Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.
School Governance

The Principal is directly responsible for the administration of the school, assisted by an Executive Team comprising Deputy Principal, Senior School Directors and Head of the Junior School. In line with all the other Australian Loreto Schools, Loreto Kirribilli is governed by a School Council which, together with the Principal, sees that the religious and educational philosophy of the Institute is maintained and promoted within the school. Loreto School Councils consist of members of the IBVM and friends of each school who bring skills in areas such as education, law, finance, communication, parenting, planning and development to their role of governance of the school.

Enrolment

Early enrolment is strongly advised. You may apply for enrolment at any time after your daughter’s birth. Students usually commence at Loreto in Kindergarten, Year 5 or Year 7 with students joining us in other Years according to availability.

Enrolment applications are processed in age at application order for those who meet our criteria. First preference is given to baptised Catholics. A parish reference is required at the time of interview.

The Principal, however, reserves the right to offer or decline to offer a place to any student, irrespective of date of application.

Location

Loreto Kirribilli is located overlooking Sydney Harbour and easily accessible by bus, train and ferry.