



# St Hilda's

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

Te Kura O Hira Tapu

PROSPECTUS

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# St Hilda's is a school that I'm immensely proud to lead.

Jackie Barron  
*Principal*



I love coming here every day, and feeling the warmth, energy, and buzz. It really is a special place.

We have an incredible bunch of students, all of them unique. This individuality is something we absolutely encourage. Not only does it make for higher personal achievement, but it makes the school a much more exciting, interesting place.

Our school has a proud history, spanning over 125 years. The traditions are something we cherish and celebrate, but never let hold us back. We are forward looking, both in outlook and facilities.

One of our roles is, of course, to prepare students for the changing world. To help shape it, and make the most of it. But just as important is caring for that world, and the people in it. Having a social conscience, a connection to the community – both local and global.

I'm delighted you are considering an education at St Hilda's. Delve in, read, learn, explore and enjoy – our world awaits you.



Developing confident,  
individual, young  
women with a love of  
learning and life.

# A timeline of our history

1897

Primary students are welcomed to the school.

1908

Sister Geraldine passes away.



1922

Houses are introduced: Havelock, Wellington, Lawrence and Nelson.

1947

Roll reaches 168, with 49 boarders.

1962

Tolcarne boarding hostel is opened.



1900

The school moves to the corner of Heriot Row and Cobden St. We now have 80 pupils, including many boarders.

Building extended throughout the 1900s, as our roll increases.

1931

The first lay principal, Dorothy Blackmore, is appointed.

1961

Catering becomes a problem, with the roll now at 196, including 71 boarders. It is decided a boarding hostel is needed.

1917

The school grows further, and we purchase the property next door on Heriot Row.

1942

Sister Etheleen passes away.

1966

A new classroom block is opened on Cobden St.

1896

St Hilda's is opened in Leith Street by Sisters Geraldine and Etheleen, with just 11 pupils. The building was known as "The Grange".

1979

St Hilda's becomes integrated into the State Education System. While the buildings and assets remain independently owned, salaries and operational costs are now funded by the Ministry of Education.

2009

Geraldine House is opened, designed to be a happy learning space. It takes in stunning city views and plenty of sun.

2024

Technology Hub redevelopment (scheduled to be finished by end of March 2024)

1996

The impressive new Gymnasium is built, with a sprung floor and more space for spectators.

2023

Whitby and Chapel redevelopment completed.

1967

Closure of the primary school is set in motion. No new entries are accepted.



1973

The Neville building is opened.

2010

The roll increases to 450 students, 150 boarders.



1991

Kilburn Wing opened (included Art Room and 7th Form Common Room)



2024

Playground completed.

1970

The new combined Whitby Hall and chapel is opened.

1996

The Chapel is rebuilt, to have more seating capacity. The new library is also opened, with open space for reading, classwork, team teaching, as well as individual learning spaces.

2019

Performing and Visual Arts Building completed.

# Our Special Character

St Hilda's is a Christian school in the Anglican tradition. We have full school Chapels twice weekly, and Religious Education classes at every year level. However we don't expect all of our students and their families to be Anglican, or even Christian. We do expect that they embrace the values our special character brings.

Respecting the intellectual, emotional, physical, social and spiritual well-being of all people. And relating to each other, and the world, with compassion, service, grace and justice. It is these values, above all, that guide everything we do in the school – from the classroom to the sports field.





# We like different

At St Hilda's, we embrace the individuality of every student.

No two students are the same, and we wouldn't want them to be. They each have different learning styles, capabilities, unique talents and of course, personalities.

We're not interested in a cookie cutter, one-size-fits-all education. It doesn't work. Our aim is to give every single girl the opportunity to be their best, and have a fulfilling, successful learning experience. No student gets left behind, lost in the crowd, or unchallenged.

After all, we're not just here to educate for a few years, we're instilling a love of learning to last a lifetime.





**Sara Munro**  
*1995 Graduate*  
Creative Director,  
Company of Strangers

**The St Hilda's graduate** has all the tools to forge her own path, whatever that may be. She's creative and collaborative. A critical thinker, and a communicator. She's ambitious. She won't just navigate the world, she'll contribute to it. She is a job maker, not a job taker.

# Excellence

Academic, Cultural, Service and Sporting excellence are all strived for and celebrated at St Hilda's.

Every student is expected to achieve their personal best, and we support them in every way possible. It starts with our teaching staff – all highly qualified specialists in their fields, with a genuine love of what they do. Of course, we also have to be adaptable to the needs of each girl. Learning opportunities are flexible enough to challenge a wide range of abilities, learning styles, and interests. Students can also follow completely individualised programmes where needed, with choices of subjects and programmes available at every level.

The statistics back up our approach. NCEA results are well above the national average, at every level. Māori and Pasifika students perform well above their peers in schools of similar decile rating.

All students are encouraged to achieve personal excellence.

- They may work within their own class on enrichment and individual activities, or accelerate for subjects they're passionate about.
- In the senior school, multi-level flexible study is available, where students can work at different levels of the curriculum as part of a personal programme. Some of our senior students also access tertiary courses to further extend themselves.



# Learning for life

Whether it's science, mathematics, or history, the most valuable thing a student is learning, is to learn. It's a skill that is becoming more and more important, in a world that is changing faster than ever before.



Our learning environment at St Hilda's is focused on developing individual capacity, critical thinking, and reflective learning. This means we encourage the students to go beyond simply memorising information. They take a step back, really think about it, question it, apply their own insight, and form their own opinions.

Our aim is to ensure students leave with a sufficient breadth and depth of knowledge alongside a mix of strategies and mindsets necessary to problem solve, think strategically, learn independently, and interact with the world in a variety of contexts, obtaining the attitudes and dispositions to stick at a task, to be optimistic and care for others and their world.

At St Hilda's we want to prepare our students to be knowledge makers, we want to ensure they have resilience to fail and try again and we want to make sure they have a sense of who they are and their place in the world.

# Express yourself

We absolutely love seeing our students express themselves creatively. Their ability to surprise with their talent, thought, and bravery never ceases to amaze. The Arts offer a creative outlet of course, but some underrated side effects include boosted confidence, and social development.

Design, Art, Photography, Music, Dance, and Drama are curriculum subjects, which are both popular and academically strong. Of course, outside of the curriculum, endless creative opportunities are provided. Excellence in the Arts is celebrated with Cultural Blues Awards.

We have an Arts Co-ordinator as well as Art Prefects who have been especially appointed to promote the Arts. They also have the wholehearted support of all our staff.



## The Arts

Students are encouraged to get involved in:

- Debating
- Dance Workshops
- Hip Hop
- Kapa Haka Group
- Sings Hilda and Nga Korimako
- Orchestra, Chamber Music, Rockquest and Bandquest
- School Musical
- Theatresports.

We also regularly celebrate the Arts with events and occasions such as:

- The Big Sing
- Biennial Showquest
- Blues Awards Evening
- Photography Competition
- Art Exhibitions
- Royal New Zealand Ballet Workshops
- Rockquest and Bandquest
- Group, Individual and Kapa Haka performances at parent evenings and other school occasions.
- Biennial Stage Challenge
- Junior Orchestra Workshop Day
- Artist of the Term
- Arts Assemblies
- Otago University Shakespeare Festival
- Interschool Theatre Sports Competition
- NZCAF Hip Hop
- Otago Secondary Schools Music Festival
- Polyfest
- Stars on Stage
- Play it Strange Songwriting Competition.

## Learn an instrument

Students have the opportunity to learn instruments either through the music programme, or if they want to take it to the next level, private tuition. We offer private tuition in strings, brass, woodwind, percussion, voice and guitar.

## Public speaking

The art of public speaking is taught as part of the English curriculum. There are plenty of opportunities for students to put what they learn into practice.

From Chapel services and assemblies, to occasions such as St Hilda's Day, Carol Services, Prizegiving and more. We also encourage entry into speech competitions.





**Georgia Copeman**

*Year 13 2021*

Level Three Scholarship Photography 2021

# Play your way

Whether it's competitive or purely for fun, sports play a big part in St Hilda's school life. Our students have plenty of opportunity to get involved – from lunchtime activities, after school and weekend competitions, right through to regional and national tournaments. We have a 'balance is better' philosophy, so we encourage our students to participate in sport while also achieving in other areas.

St Hilda's has a proud record of sporting achievement, from regional champs to New Zealand representatives, which we celebrate in many ways. We reward achievement with Sports Blue Awards, special sport awards for individual excellence, newsletter acknowledgments and ODT reports.

We also have school sports days with full participation, which are great fun for all involved. Inter-house rivalry is in full flow at athletics sports day, cross-country, and swimming sports, bringing a little competitive edge to proceedings.

## The A-Z of sports

We provide endless opportunities for the students to get involved in all kinds of sports at St Hilda's.

Here's our ever-growing list:

- Aerobics
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Climbing
- Cricket
- Cross-country
- Curling
- Equestrian
- Football
- Futsal
- Golf
- Harriers
- Hockey
- Ice hockey
- Minivolley
- Multi-sports
- Netball
- Rock climbing
- Rowing
- Rugby and rugby sevens
- Skiing
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Touch
- Triathlon/duathlon
- Volleyball
- Water polo
- Water skiing.

## Getting out

Sometimes the best way to learn is to see something for yourself. Many of our subjects include Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC). This includes activities such as biology and geography field trips and class visits to the Botanical Gardens or the Anatomy Museum.

Our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students all enjoy going on exciting camps and Marae visits at either Ōtākou Marae, Camp Columba (Southland) or Tautuku (Catlins). Aside from being a lot of fun, the activities are designed to build the girls self-esteem, outdoor skills and the ability to work in groups.

Senior students can choose to bike the Otago Rail Trail, explore the Abel Tasman National Park or go kayaking in Murchison through their curriculum options.

# A home away from home

Just a 10 minute walk from St Hilda's is Tolcarne, our boarding residence. Home to up to 160 girls, it's beautifully situated in the town belt, looking out over the city and harbour.

At Tolcarne, we believe in creating a home where our girls feel completely at ease. Living by the same family values anyone would be proud of: belonging, empathy, inclusion, integrity, and of course, fun. If students feel nurtured and deeply cared for, they start to belong. When they belong, they soon believe in themselves. And when they believe, they can become whatever they want to be.

Student safety underpins everything we do. We have a high trust model, based on a high level of communication from the girls. Letting us know where they are going, and what they are doing. The girls enjoy a little more freedom at each year level, reflecting their age and privilege. From Year 9, where students receive close support, to Year 13 where students have the opportunity to live in self-catering, 5 bedroom apartments.

All of our boarding staff go out of their way to be as warm and approachable as possible. It's all about developing

relationships based on trust with each individual, allowing all of us to live happily together. We do everything we can to ensure the well-being of each student, which goes hand-in-hand with the smooth running of the boarding hostel. We find a healthy partnership with families and students ensures a successful boarding experience for all. Feedback is also encouraged, as it helps to create an environment of mutual respect.

One of the Directors of Boarding lives on site and is regularly visible at Tolcarne. The Directors take part in daily routines, attend meetings, join in with activities and enjoy meals with the girls. The Tolcarne Junior and Senior Deans work closely with the girls, providing continuous care. Our school counsellor and chaplain also visit on a regular basis providing additional pastoral support, guidance and advice for the girls.





# What our students and their parents have to say about Tolcarne.



"I like Tolcarne, it's bright, warm and welcoming and it feels like home"

Year 9



"Being offsite means we get that 'away space'. I like it like that"

Year 12



"I really appreciate the work that goes into making it feel like a family"

Parent

ST HILDA'S



These photos were taken by our Tolcarne girls.

“We are a tight knit group and there is good bonding between different year levels”

Year 13



“It feels like we are all sisters”

Year 11



“The staff are on the same level as the girls, they appreciate that every girl is unique”

Parent



# The St Hilda's family

We're lucky to have a wonderful extended community contributing to the development of the school. Here are the roles of some of the bigger groups.

## The Board of Trustees

This is where representatives of all the groups in the St Hilda's community come together. Parents, staff, students, the Principal, and the Proprietors are all represented on the board. Everyone brings a different insight, but shares the same commitment to St Hilda's being a special place – a caring educational community with a Christian basis within the Anglican tradition.

Of course, The Board of Trustees looks at operational matters, like making sure the school has the people and resources it needs to run effectively. But it also takes a holistic view, looking at the bigger picture of making St Hilda's an exciting and rewarding learning environment for all.

## The Board of Proprietors

The Board of Proprietors brings together representatives of the St Hilda's community with members of the Anglican church community. This includes members of boarding families, the Parents' and Friends' Association, Old Girls' Association, the Dunedin Diocesan Trust Board and the Diocesan Council. The board is responsible for ensuring the Special Character of the school is maintained and enhanced, and is also the governing body for Tolcarne Boarding Residence.

The Proprietors own both the land and buildings of the school, as well as Tolcarne. In recent years, the Board of Proprietors and the St Hilda's Endowment Society have made fantastic additions to facilities at the school. These include the redevelopment of the Richards Library, Performing and Visual Arts Building opened in 2019 and the redevelopment of the library, Whitby & the Chapel - opened in 2024.

## PFA

Any parents (or friends, for that matter) can join the Parents' and Friends' Association, who provide support for St Hilda's in a variety of ways with fundraising activities. These include the biennial fair, concerts, selling of school merchandise, raffles, and organisation of social events. Whether you get actively involved or not, your support is greatly appreciated.



# Application

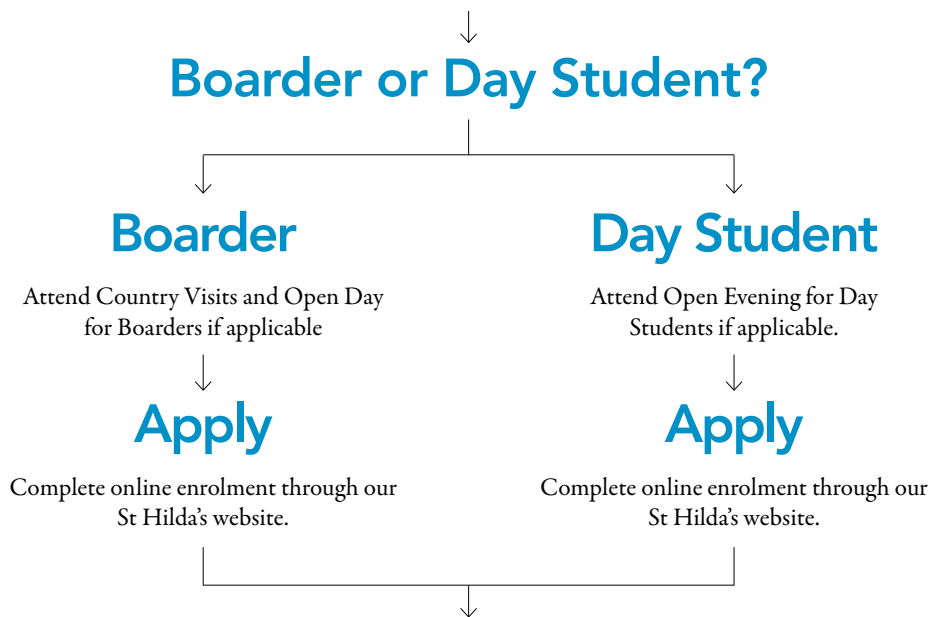
## Connect With Us

Visit our St Hilda's website to register for one of our open events.

We have a number of opportunities for you to explore learning and boarding at St Hilda's, including our Country Visits, Boarders Open Day and Day Student Open Evening.

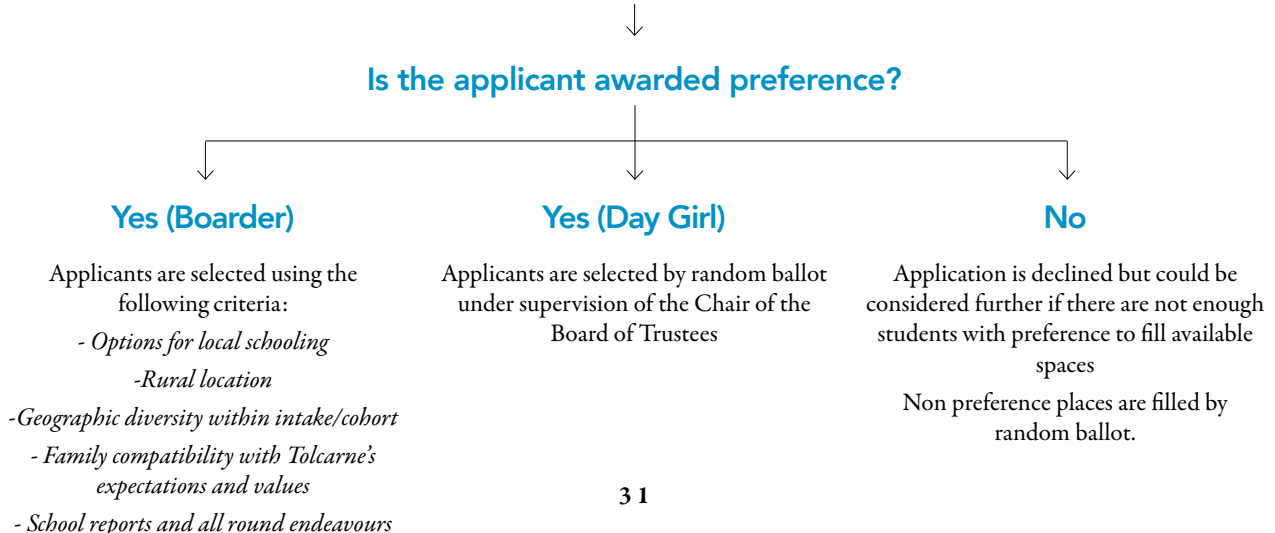
You may register for these events at: [www.sbcs.school.nz/about/enrolments](http://www.sbcs.school.nz/about/enrolments)

For all other enrolment enquiries please email [enrolments@sbcs.school.nz](mailto:enrolments@sbcs.school.nz)



### Application is considered

The Preference Committee (made up of the Anglican Bishop of Dunedin and three members of the Board of Proprietors) meet to confirm applicants meet the preference criteria. Preference is determined under section 29(1) of the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975 and the Deed of Integration will give preference to those students whose parents have a particular sympathy with the special character of St Hilda's Collegiate School or whose family members have previously attended the school.



ST HILDA'S

Thanks for your interest  
and we look forward to  
hearing from you.

**St Hilda's Collegiate School**

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