

Living and studying at
Whitsunday Anglican School

Boarding Prospectus




Whitsunday
Anglican School
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Anglican School





**At Whitsunday Anglican School,
we offer exceptional educational
and life experiences for your sons
and daughters. Our boarders build
confidence, character and skills
that go beyond school in a safe and
nurturing environment that allows
them to thrive. Boarders are part of
a well-connected wider community
that includes the School, friends
and their family.**

“Boarding at Whitsunday Anglican School helped me develop my independence, as well as vital social and communication skills that are essential for personal and professional development... I believe the best part of the School is the culture of encouragement and excellence. It is what sets Whitsunday apart.”

LAINY CHRISTENSEN, NEBO, OLD SCHOLAR



A leading education, locally based

Providing leading facilities in the Mackay region, we are the only school to support boarders locally. Many of our boarders come from the greater Mackay and Queensland area, and can actively participate in both boarding and home life. We offer a chartered bus home for weekends servicing surrounding areas (including Moranbah, Clermont, Nebo and Eton) and we encourage parents to visit. It's the best of both worlds.

Why choose Whitsunday Anglican School?

Based in Mackay, Queensland, Whitsunday Anglican School offers leading academic, co-curricular and personal growth opportunities for your son/daughter.

Our boarders are provided with support and the environment they need to study and achieve in key areas like STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), English and Literature, Sport, the Arts, Music, Drama and more.

Just as importantly, our boarders are also offered opportunities to help them grow and develop personally, in preparation for life beyond school.

With a focus on a balanced education through leadership, character, emotional intelligence, resilience and self-belief, we offer a complete learning experience that allows your child to be the best they can be in a wide range of areas.

Academic or vocational, the majority of Whitsunday Anglican School students go on to study their preferred degree or take the career path of their choice.

We are thrilled to offer the opportunity to board to families in regional Queensland and beyond. It's a world class education, at your doorstep.



Academic excellence

Academically, we are the number one performing school in the Mackay region with strong NAPLAN results and Year 12 graduates who consistently secure their first university option or vocational job of choice.



Co-educational boarding specialist from Years 6-12

We are the only boarding school in Mackay and offer a safe, personal and caring boarding environment for students from Years 6 to 12. Our boarders are like family and enjoy a range of activities alongside one another as well as daily academic support and preparation.



Motivation and high standards

Staff and parents alike will tell you that our students are motivated to perform, with a passion for learning. They understand the expectations of our School and willingly deliver in learning outcomes and responsible behaviour. Boarders are supported to develop their full potential.



Boarding bus

We offer a unique regional bus service for weekly boarders, allowing those who live in the surrounding area (e.g. Moranbah, Clermont, Nebo and Eton) the opportunity to return home on the weekends.



Global Learning program

Students at Whitsunday Anglican School are offered life-enriching cultural and travel experiences, thanks to our Global Learning and Cultural Exchange programs.



Multicultural students

A large proportion of our students are culturally diverse from culturally different backgrounds, reflecting the real world, enriching our community and fostering friendships, respect, empathy and inclusion.



Anglican Faith and Values

Parents choose our school because of the strong values that are interwoven into its fabric. Our values encourage our students to 'serve' others, creating future citizens that actively contribute to community.





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“We love the family friendly environment that Booth House Boarding offers. Our children love life as boarders and are lucky to be given so many opportunities both within the School and the boarding house. The transition into boarding has been made so much easier with the support of staff and their families. The 5 and 7 day option is also a great way to ease kids into being away from home. Another advantage for country kids is the extra-curricular opportunities. We miss having the children at home but we love knowing they are well looked after in Booth House.”

**SARAH MIFSUD, BOARDING PARENT, UNDARA DOWNS STATION
(KILCUMMIN)**

WHAT WE OFFER:

- Strong boarding leadership and care
- Personalised approach to every child
- Holistic education with sport, music, drama and service opportunities
- See the best of Mackay and the Whitsundays
- Weekly boarding bus servicing our rural communities, connecting boarders with families each weekend
- Real life co-education experience

“We are truly a local school with a global family outlook. We take great pride in offering an outstanding learning environment in a safe and nurturing community.”



Boarding at Whitsunday Anglican School in Mackay provides exceptional educational and life experiences for your child, empowering them with the confidence to make a difference.

We are a K-12 co-educational Christian day and boarding school, with the School commencing in 1988. Today our boarding caters for a total of 78 students from Years 6-12. Our boarding component is deliberately small, enabling our students to be part of a ‘family’ environment where every student is known and matters.

Choosing a boarding school for your child is, in some ways, a bigger decision than just selecting the right school for their education. Their ‘home-away-from-home’ experience and the diversity of future opportunities need to live up to the choice your family is making.

There are many reasons why Whitsunday Anglican School and Booth House Boarding are the preferred option in Mackay and we hope you enjoy reading about them further in this Prospectus.

Our curriculum focuses on the skills and knowledge students need to pursue dynamic career pathways into the future. As well as academic outcomes, we consider how the traits of creativity, collaboration,

adaptability, problem solving and teamwork will serve them well in any endeavour, in any corner of the world.

We provide a supportive setting for students where our staff take a personalised approach to each child’s education, enabling appropriate focus and support for them to personally develop and to perform at their best.

Our boarders are an integral part of our School community. Often from remote or regional areas, we value the experiences and diversity they bring to our School and enjoy seeing them grow and connect with each other, as well as with our day students. Friendships for life are built in boarding.

You will find a place where your child can develop confidence and determination, and achieve a holistic education for life.

We invite you to come and tour our school, meet our Head of Boarding and other Heads of Sub-school and see for yourself our facilities and welcoming community.

**Andrew Wheaton
Principal**



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“The Booth Boarding House is like my home away from home – it is a big supportive and caring family where everyone is included. It has allowed me to have opportunities I never could have had at home and involves us in a wide range of activities. Whitsunday Anglican School has also given me a lot of opportunity to achieve the best results I can. It is different to other schools as it is very individual and teachers go above and beyond to help.”

MADDISON CLIFFORD, BOARDER, MOUNT HILLARY STATION (DYSART)



Welcome to Booth Boarding House

Booth House is the name of our main boarding house and environment, where your child will call their 'home away from home'. It is divided into three main accommodation areas – Booth House, the Pods and the Dalrymple Wing.

Every child stays in an air-conditioned room with a ceiling fan, bed, study desk, wardrobe, pinboard and a window outlook. All students have access to monitored Wi-Fi. Girls and boys have separate sleeping and personal amenities. Students may have an individual room or share with others depending on their age and availability. However, we pride ourselves on being able to offer most boarders their own room from a much younger age than many boarding schools. Senior students have their own room and separate common area, overlooking the oval. The primary common room is located in the main Booth House area. Our entire boarding area is fenced and alarmed.

All boarders have access to kitchenettes, lounges, laundry, TVs, a library and entertainment (e.g. technology and board games).

The boarders have their own dining room where all meals are served.

Students also have access to our School Nurse, School Psychologist and Boarding Housemother who can help with any issue or problem that arises.

The boarders are transported when needed for sport, appointments or on weekends etc in our own bus.



Booth House Dining Hall

Our boarders have three meals a day provided for them in our dining hall. We place great importance on the health and wellbeing of our students.

Our menus are prepared with a balanced nutritional approach, encompassing all food groups and a wide range of styles. We believe the communal aspect of dining is a healthy way for students to grow friendships, relax and interact with one another.

Students receive three hot breakfasts each week, have access to hot food and a salad bar (wraps / sandwiches etc) at lunch, and enjoy a main meal with dessert each evening. Snacks and supper are also available to students.

All food for our boarders is prepared by a dedicated chef and catering team. Jays Catering have recently achieved a food safety rating of 5 stars (Excellent Food Safety) as per the Food Act 2006.

Take away boxes, snacks, poppers and water are also available for boarders, particularly when they have activities that take them away from school. We encourage an eco-friendly approach to bottles etc.

Breakfast: a selection of cooked breakfast items as well as continental (toasts, cereals) and fruit

Lunch: a sit down lunch with a wide variety of meals and salad bar

Dinner and Dessert: wholesome hot two course meals with plenty of protein options, salad, vegetables and a range of carbohydrates

Special Diets: we cater for all dietary needs from our kitchen



Benefits of Boarding

- A boarding ‘home away from home’ where students feel known, valued and nurtured
- Students learn to be independent and responsible for themselves and others, building self-confidence and life-skills
- Live-in boarding staff and Housemother provide guidance and support
- Opportunity to make lifelong friends and connections
- Supervision of academic work in designated study hours to promote learning outcomes
- Excellent common facilities and own space – shared areas encourage companionship and mutual respect
- On-site access to all School facilities
- Interaction with a wide range of people, including domestic students, international students and visiting students from the Winchester Foundation (for rural / remote children)
- Pastoral care, including access to our School Nurse and School Psychologist

Boarding Facilities

- Secure, quality accommodation for all boarders with window outlook
- All rooms are air-conditioned and include ceiling fan, bed, study desk, wardrobe and pinboard
- Monitored Wi-Fi
- Communal relaxation areas
- Dining Room
- Kitchenette
- TV (Foxtel) and entertainment devices
- Library
- Laundry

Student Wellbeing and Support

- Emotional Intelligence Program and dedicated Dean of Students (Years 7-8) to support students in these crucial years
- Coordinator of Athletic Development and Physical Wellbeing which gives our students the opportunity to develop enhanced physical wellbeing and athletic performance through effective, evidence-based, progressive and cooperative programs
- Responsible use of technology within the School and boarding environment

School Facilities

On arrival at Whitsunday Anglican School you will find leading facilities with tropical gardens, green spaces and many undercover areas for shelter from heat and rain. Students benefit from separate areas for each sub-School (Junior and Senior Schools). Our School has the following facilities:

- Library
- Specialist music and art spaces for individual tuition
- Specialist classrooms for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths)
- Multiple ovals and courts
- Indoor air-conditioned multi-purpose hall for performances, sport and events
- Gymnasium
- Learning enhancement space
- The Deck: where students perform on Friday afternoons in Senior School
- St Barnabas Chapel
- Vegetable gardens
- Air-conditioned modern classrooms
- Tuckshop

Boarding Weekend / Social Activities

- Beach visits
- Bush walks
- Sporting activities
- Shopping trips
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Fun runs / sporting events
- Dinner at the Mackay Marina
- Local Mackay and regional events
- Regular boarding social events, including:
 - Valentine’s Day
 - Easter
 - Christmas in July
 - International Week
 - Booth House Cup
 - Year 12 Farewell Dinner

School Calendar

- Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival (up to 6000 students from around the region enjoy two days of book talks and workshops with Australia’s leading children’s and young adult authors)
- Outdoor Education Week (seven days at locations such as the Whitsundays, Halliday Bay, and the Gold Coast)
- Interhouse activities including:
 - Choir
 - Sport
 - Maths and debating competitions
- Arts, music and cultural events
- Global Learning Program events, including global exchanges and expeditions overseas

HATS Program

- Our leading HATS (Homework and Tutorial Scheme) is available to students in key subject areas outside class time hours
- All boarding students can access this service to gain extra assistance in areas they want help with, or wish to excel in

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BOOTH HOUSE BOARDER

One of the key outcomes of boarding is that students learn to be organised and manage their own time. A typical day's schedule for students may look like this:

7.00am

Start the day

7.15am

Breakfast

8.25am

School commences

3.00pm

School finishes

3.15pm

HATS (Homework and Tutorial Scheme)
Tuesday and Thursday – 1 hour, optional

Individual study, co-curricular
personal time or other activities

5.00pm

First Prep time
(academic support)

6.00pm

Dinner

7.00pm

Second Prep time
(support independent learning)

8.30pm

Lights out for youngest and
Junior Boarders

10.00pm

Lights out for Senior Boarders

Afternoons are for boarders to relax,
enjoy some free time or engage in study
or a co-curricular activity.

Prep time is designated and supervised
study time, where students are expected to
complete homework, work on assessment,
read and revise or study. It is a quiet time for
all and a chance for students to consolidate
their learning from classes and prepare for
upcoming examination periods. It is also
designed to suit the academic needs of
the year level.





A BOARDER'S WEEKEND

At Booth House, weekends are a chance for students to either catch the bus home to their family, or to engage in a wide range of local and School based co-curricular activities and leisure pursuits. This could be fun runs, football, gymnastics, dance, golf and triathlon to name just a few. This is also time for relaxation and recuperation after a busy week at School, and a time to prepare for the upcoming week.

At Booth House we organise outings and experiences that can include swimming at the Blue Water Lagoon, visiting Caneland Central Shopping Centre and heading to the Mackay Harbour and Marina. We may visit one of our stunning local beaches, or take a day trip to Cape Hillsborough, Finch Hatton Gorge or Eungella. In small groups our boarders go to the movies, and watch peers competing in local sporting competitions and events.

All boarders attend the Booth House Meeting in the St. Barnabas Chapel on Sunday evenings at 7.30pm to discuss any relevant matters and plan for the week ahead. This is preceded by our Booth House Chapel Service.



"The Prep times for boarding students is definitely a great advantage, it keeps them on task and accountable for homework and assignments. Academically the staff at Whitsunday are always striving for each student's success."

SARAH MIFSUD, BOARDING PARENT





Being away from home

Living away from home brings emotional challenges for young people and their families, which is why we take time, care and support each individual student to ensure they settle in and build connections and positive relationships within the Boarding and wider School community.

Boarding encourages and allows students to take control of their own organisation and establish routines. Boarding students learn critical interpersonal skills that are essential in today's and tomorrow's world. Boarders become well-rounded individuals, equipped with:

- independence
- initiative
- leadership
- ability to work in teams
- empathy
- resilience
- organisation
- motivation
- compassion, with a world view.

Strong and open communication between students, the School and family is imperative. At Booth House, we keep an open channel with parents and are always available for conversation via phone, email or face-to-face. We understand it is critical for parents to be involved in their child's educational journey.





Living in Mackay

When boarding with us, your child will have the opportunity to experience the wonderful area of Mackay.

It is a modern and vibrant city with a rich history and a diverse population, surrounded by some of Australia's most natural beauty – from reefs, to rainforest and the outback. It is one of Queensland's most accessible regional destinations serviced by an airport just 15 minutes from the School. Off our coastline is a section of the Great Barrier Reef and closer to shore are the islands of St. Bees and Keswick, abundant in marine life. Mackay itself is known for its beautiful beaches, marina, and features like the Bluewater Lagoon, a city water park. Inland from Mackay, the Pioneer Valley offers a range of attractions for Boarders to explore, including Eungella National Park, a habitat for rare frogs and platypus, Cape Hillsborough, where kangaroos can be spotted on the beach, and Finch Hatton, providing a wonderful day out hiking and swimming.

- Fast growing coastal city, home to 116,539 people
- Gross regional product – \$7.977 billion
- Diverse local industries, including agriculture, mining and tourism
- Home to the Pioneer River, one of Queensland's only 'blue rivers'
- Pristine rainforest hinterland
- One of the largest sugar-producing regions in Australia
- Mackay and the Whitsundays are home to 204 incredible islands
- An important part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWhA)





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“Boarding is very welcoming, supportive and friendly, particularly for new boarders. One of the biggest advantages is everyone mingling together across the grades and being basically one big family. I have good friends and also staff members I can go to for support.”

LAUREN SEMPLE, BOARDER, COOLIBAH STATION (DYSART)



“As parents of boarding students we feel our children are not only in safe hands, but are well cared for on a daily basis and are well supported by both teaching and boarding staff. Whitsunday Anglican School has a family environment and really tries to work with us in helping our children be happy, confident, well educated and well rounded. The wonderful boarding staff have helped teach my children to be self-driven and responsible. The opportunities offered by the School, both academically and through co-curricular, have broadened their experiences and generally made them happier more rounded people.”

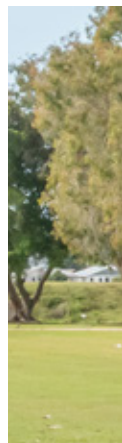
PHIL AND JANELLE OTTO, BOARDING PARENTS, HOMELEA DOWNS (CLERMONT)



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We look forward to offering your family an exceptional boarding experience – a world class education, at your doorstep.





More Information

We offer *Come and Try Days* for prospective boarders as well as school tours for families.

For more information about boarding at Whitsunday Anglican School or to arrange to see or experience the School and our boarding facilities, please contact:

P + 61 7 4969 2000 (General)

P + 61 7 4969 2077 (Registrar – Enrolments and School Tours)

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Whitsunday Anglican School is a proud member of the **Australian Boarding Schools' Association (ABSA)**. The Association is the leading authority in Australia on boarding for school-aged children and promotes the interests and well-being of boarders, boarding staff, boarding parents and boarding institutions in Australia.



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