

2026

# Boarding

Handbook



**HAILEYBURY**  
RENDALL SCHOOL

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The community of Haileybury Rendall School acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which it is based, the Larrakia People, and pays respect to the Elders – past and present.



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Get Involved

Be Kind



Respect



Connection



Trust



Empathy

Do Your Best

# About Haileybury Rendall School

At Haileybury Rendall School we are dedicated to creating a nurturing environment where 'Every student matters every day'. We are also committed to promoting cultural awareness in all children, including greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing and being.

## Vision

To be recognised as a great world school.

## Mission

To deliver an exceptional educational experience that fosters the growth of each child, through leading teaching and learning programs and a wide array of opportunities, within a culture of high expectations – empowering students to excel.

# Welcome to Boarding

Our aim is to be recognised as the best boarding school in Northern Australia. In this context, the school was privileged to be awarded the Boarding School of the Year at the Australian Education Awards in 2022. We seek to provide the best possible foundation for learning and ensure that all boarders have the chance to make the most of the opportunities offered to them by the Haileybury system of schools. Strong positive relationships are the foundation to achieving this.

In our boarding community, students build upon the values that are central to Haileybury Rendall School. In this respect, the culture of the Boarding precinct is shaped by the tenets of our School:

Be Kind, Do your Best, Get Involved.

Staff and students alike use these to guide the way we embrace the opportunities offered at Haileybury Rendall School Boarding and the way in which we support and connect with one another.

Our boarding philosophy is based on four interrelated values:

- > Respect
- > Trust
- > Empathy
- > Connection

As a school that values diversity and inclusion, we aim to create an environment where each student feels valued, respected and connected with others. Our boarding program is designed to provide a supportive and nurturing culture, where students can grow and develop academically, socially, and emotionally, whilst maintaining a strong sense of cultural identity. Our sense of community is strengthened by the diversity of backgrounds and cultures of our students, families and staff.

Within each boarding house is a team of trained, caring mentors who work closely with our students to maintain a shared home environment through a positive relationships-based approach. Students have regular access to other expert staff at school including the counsellors, nurses and other key wellbeing experts.

The decision to enrol at a boarding school can be a daunting one for many families. Staff feel privileged to have the trust and responsibility placed in them by so many families to care and guide their children through their schooling years.

On behalf of the entire Haileybury Rendall School community, we welcome you and your family to our community.

## Co-education setting

Haileybury Rendall School Boarding has a male and female residence and a boarding house with separate male and female living areas. However, we all connect via one boarding precinct, shared by all students of all ages, in which they can study, socialise or simply 'be' with fellow boarders.

Our broad and engaging Sport and Recreation program offers a range of active and passive activities that cater for gender specific and mixed activities. Being a co-educational school, there are plenty of opportunities for our boarders to interact together.

# Diverse cultures, one community

Intercultural diversity is celebrated as one of the unique strengths of the Haileybury Rendall School Boarding community. Our students have opportunities to learn from each other's cultures and backgrounds, leading to a more rounded education.

Our boarding culture is based on respectful relationships, where students have clear responsibilities for maintaining a safe, happy and connected environment. Restorative conversations are used regularly to deepen and repair relationships between students.

Staff and students are asked to focus on the strengths each individual brings to our School, in order to help one another grow and thrive.

## Student leadership

At Haileybury Rendall School Boarding, we value all students as leaders. This fact is reflected in our student leadership structure, which is inclusive and provides an opportunity for all of our boarders to get involved.

Each year, Boarding appoints two Senior Prefects and two Junior Prefects to represent their respective cohorts. This leadership group meets with the Deputy Director of Boarding once a week to provide the staff with a student voice.

All students are involved in our mid-week student meetings where staff and students set the agenda and allow all students to share thoughts and ideas on how boarding can be improved for all concerned.

All boarders also have opportunities to connect with one another and to engage in leadership by sharing their thoughts in our more informal Yarning Circles. These circles provide the opportunities to provide input into all aspects of boarding life such as food offered at the dining hall, our Sport and Recreation program and initiatives that reinforce our guiding values. In addition, other leadership workshops and camps are available to our students.

# Travel

Here is a guideline for our 2026 term travel dates. These are subject to some changes:

Term	Travel Date*
All boarders return	Wednesday, 28 January
End of Term 1 travel	Thursday, 2 April
Start of Term 2 travel	Monday, 20 April
End of Term 2 travel	Friday, 19 June
Start of Term 3 travel	Monday, 13 July
End of Term 3 travel	Friday, 18 September
Start of Term 4 travel	Sunday, 4 October
End of Term 4 travel	Thursday, 10 December

*\*Travel dates may be subject to change, families will be notified*

## Arrival and orientation

At the commencement of the School year, a smoking ceremony and Welcome to Country are conducted to help our boarders feel comfortable and safe on Larrakia Country. The first night is spent settling into student rooms and spending time with other boarders and buddies. During the weekend, students are supported by staff so that they are school-ready for the commencement of classes. Uniforms are organised, timetables provided, key staff are introduced, and tours of school buildings are conducted. There are also plenty of opportunities to have fun, with organised activities and events during the weekend.

## Travel to and from HRS

Our Travel Officer is the key point of reference with regard to travel to and from school. Travel arrangements are managed throughout the course of the academic year, with boarding staff supervising airport transport.



“Every student matters every day”



# Accommodation

Boarding at Haileybury Rendall School is a 'home away from home' — our three boarding houses and all our facilities are designed to be welcoming and comfortable and form an integral part of the School.

The School prides itself in the excellent quality of its residential facilities. With beautiful recreational spaces and landscaped gardens, each boarding house is well-appointed with bathrooms, laundry facilities, a fully equipped kitchen, TVs and recreational equipment.

Outdoor spaces have been designed based on student feedback with socially interactive areas such as fire pits, sporting facilities, gym equipment and the music room.

Across our three boarding houses, students are accommodated in light and bright twin share or single rooms. Students are encouraged to decorate their rooms to truly make the space feel like their own.

## Staff presence and supervision

We have a dedicated and experienced boarding staff team at Haileybury Rendall School. Our staff are trained in active supervision and other key skills that ensure the safety and wellbeing of our boarders. Our house mentors provide daily support for our boarders and help them prepare for school, guide them through evening routines, and form positive relationships with our boarders through the Activities program and through spending time connecting with one another.

Our staff are also regularly updating their own credentials and skills through ongoing training in key areas which include: Duty of Care training; First Aid; Cultural Awareness training; Trauma Informed Practice, and Restorative Practice.

# Structure

## Shape of the day

The following table is a representation of a typical weekday for a child in our boarding community.

### Monday to Friday

#### Morning routine:

7.00 am	Wake up
7.30 am	Personal care and wellbeing check-in with staff
8.00 am	Breakfast
8.30 am	Students depart for class

#### School day routine:

8.35 am	Tutor period
8.45 am	Classes begin
12.30 pm	Lunch
3.00 pm	Supervised homework support

#### Afternoon and evening routine:

4.00 pm	Afternoon Activities program
6.00 pm	Community dinner
6.30 pm	Evening Activities program
8.00 pm	Yarning Circles and supper
9.30 pm	All students in own residence
	Personal care routines
	Preparation for next day
	All students in own bedrooms
10.00 pm	Lights out

## Supervised homework support

At the end of the formal school day, all boarders are expected to work on their homework in the school library. Professional teaching staff are on hand here to support and help boarders consolidate their learnings from the day. This is an ideal opportunity to complete important learning activities.

Boarders also continue homework sessions after dinner as required by their VCE subjects.

## Afternoon activities program

Upon completing homework support sessions, boarders are welcome to engage in a variety of afternoon activities. We offer a range of sessions that focus on arts and crafts, music, as well as sporting and social activities. The purpose of our afternoon activities is to give our students an opportunity to engage in a passion project, strengthen culture, improve personal fitness or sporting skills, or just have fun with their friends in an informal setting.

## Evening activities program

In the evening, boarders have a variety of options in choosing how to spend their time. All students have access to evening homework support. While Senior students are expected to engage in study during this time, our younger students may choose to complete further study or they may opt to spend this time by relaxing or engaging in further semi-structured activities.

## Yarning circles and supper

After the Evening Activities, all boarders have the opportunity to participate in Yarning Circles. This is an important opportunity to discuss relevant issues of the day, or engage in the discussion of various wellbeing topics. Circles are student driven and serve as a tool for enhancing relationships and connections between our community members.

## Shape of the weekend

The weekend is an important time for all our boarders. It allows them to engage in a variety of diverse and educational experiences. Students are provided with a large number of sporting, social and cultural options throughout the two day period. Students are also provided with important times to study and consolidate on the learnings from classes throughout the week.

Also, students have access to a large range of excellent facilities at the school such as sporting grounds, the gym and swimming pool.

It is also important that students are given some opportunities to have unstructured time, so that they can choose to relax, spend time with each other, read, play games, study or simply decompress after a busy school week.

### Saturday

8.30 am	Wake up Breakfast and clean-up duties
11.00 am	Weekend Activities program
1.00 pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Weekend Activities program
6.00pm	Community dinner
7.00pm	Evening Activities program
8.30pm	Supper
9.30 pm	All students in own residence
10.00 pm	Lights out

### Sunday

10.00 am	Community breakfast
11.00 am	Weekend Activities program — optional activities
1.00 pm	Lunch
2.00 pm	Weekend Activities program — optional activities
5.30 pm	Community meeting
6.00 pm	Community dinner
7.00 pm	Community fire pit
9.30 pm	All students in own residence Personal care routines Preparation for next day All students in own bedrooms
10.00 pm	Lights out

## Weekend activities program

Weekends are an important time for our boarders to rest, relax, learn in a different setting, study and prepare for the week ahead. The structured activities we offer during the weekends are diverse, and focus on delivering our students experiences that only the Northern Territory can offer. Many activities are outdoor based, particularly during the dry season, with visits to stunning parks, on-country activities, gardens, markets and water-based adventures. We also have a range of events over the course of a year such as discos, movie nights, organised trivia nights, cooking and more.

Our boarders have regular opportunities to offer input into the sort of activities we engage in so that what we do reflects the interests and passions of our group. Students have opportunities at the weekend to spend time with their friends or on their own; they may choose to read or to take advantage of the many excellent school facilities we offer such as our sporting facilities and swimming pool.

By Sunday evening, our focus shifts to preparation for the week ahead. Our senior students in particular make use of this valuable time to study and prepare for their week.

## Community dinner

Community dinners offer an important opportunity for our students to increase their connections with each other and staff. Indeed, dinners are also an important opportunity for the boarding community to celebrate the myriad of successes our boarders experience throughout a school term

### Weekend Activity Example

Weekend Plan – Term 4 week 2				
	Friday October 29	Saturday October 30	Sunday October 31	
<b>Breakfast</b>	8.00 am at Mayoema	8.00 am at Boarding	10.00am at Boarding	
<b>Morning</b>	6.15 am Clontarf and Stars fitness	High Clean Casuarina	Church	Berry Springs
<b>Lunch</b>	Mayoema	1.00 pm at Boarding	1.00 pm at Boarding	
<b>Afternoon</b>	School Pool	Flip out at 3.30pm	Leanyer Recreation Park 3.00 pm	
<b>Dinner</b>	6.00 pm	6.00 pm at Mayoema	6.00 pm at Mayoema	
<b>Evening</b>	Sport club cruise	Juniors – Halloween disco at St John's	Seniors – scary movie night	Dorm camp fire

# Wellbeing

## The Framework

### The Purpose ●

At Haileybury Rendall School 'Every student matters every day'.

### The Pillars ●

Our six pillars provide the framework for the School community to promote health and wellbeing for all.

### The Enablers ●

The enablers represented by the outside circle of the Framework are the critical factors that will ensure the vision for health and wellbeing across the School is achieved.

The Framework identifies five health and wellbeing enablers – Supportive Leadership, Trust, Partnerships, Resources and Safety. These enablers provide focus and direction for building a School culture that prioritises health and wellbeing, and engages in planning, implementation strategies, resourcing and evaluative practices.

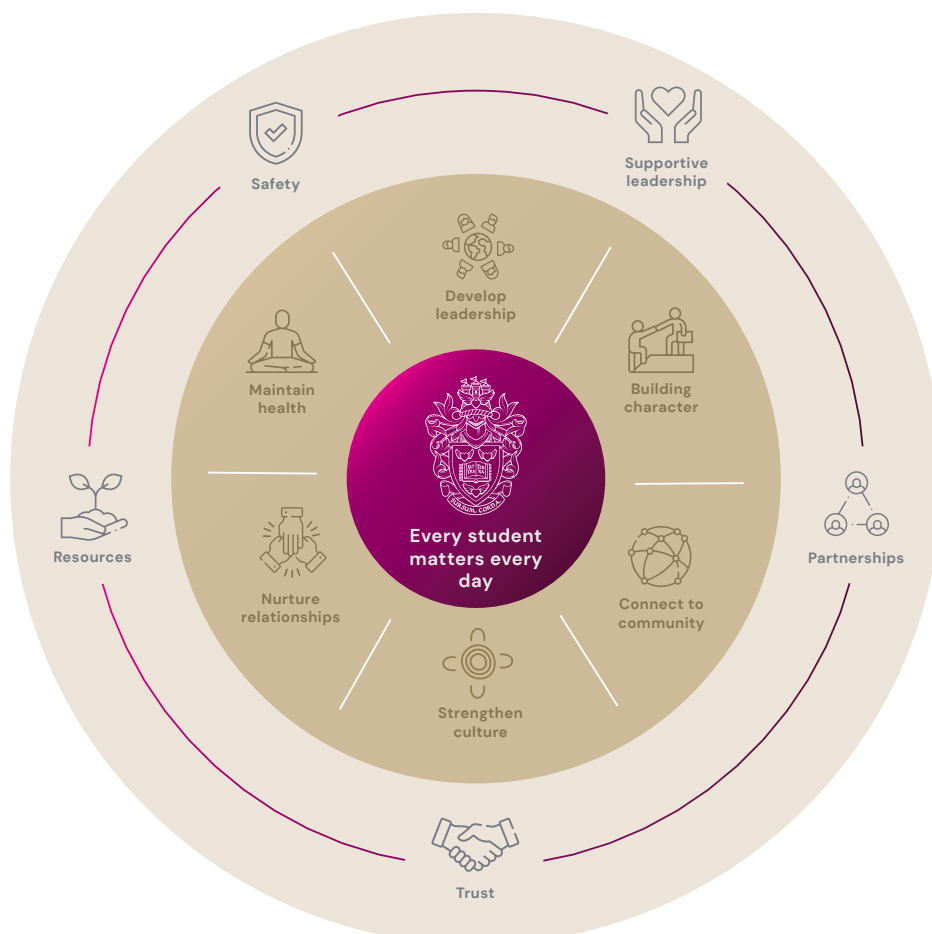
## Personal Care and Wellbeing check-in with staff

Each morning starts with a wellbeing check-in with one of our dedicated mentors. During these conversations, our staff ensure that all boarders are ready for the school day ahead and that they have all of their required materials for a full day of learning. The wellbeing check-in is also an opportunity for students and staff to review how the child is sleeping, feeling and how they are generally navigating their boarding experience.

Following the wellbeing check-in, the Head of Boarding meets with key staff to discuss any relevant information that helps ensure a seamless transition from the boarding school into the classroom.

## Medical

Access to our on-call nurse and nearby medical clinic is available to support the medical needs of students beyond staff Level 2 First Aid training. The Darwin Hospital is also a short 10 minute drive away.



# Food

## Fresh and healthy food

All boarding students enjoy a wide variety of fresh and nutritious meals, prepared in our own kitchens. The kitchen staff at Haileybury Rendall School are aware of the relationship between a well-balanced diet and student physical and emotional well-being. As a result, they work diligently to meet the needs and requirements of all our boarders. Our contemporary menu reflects the various tastes and cultures that make up the Northern Territory.

## Meals

Mealtimes are an important part of the day as they provide all members of our community with an opportunity to sit and spend time together. It is often during these occasions that we can form connections to each other. The kitchen serves three meals a day, and students are also supplied with a late supper.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in the Mayoema Dining Hall. Mayoema is a modern and comfortable space, which all students and staff in the Senior School have access to. All boarding students are required to attend the mealtimes outlined below:

	Weekdays	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Breakfast</b>	8.00 am	8.00 am	10.00 am
<b>Lunch</b>	12.30 pm	1.00 pm	1.00 pm
<b>Dinner</b>	6.00 pm	6.00 pm	6.00 pm

## Dining room expectations

Mayoema is a school space and as such regular school expectations apply here. During the week, students are expected to attend in full school uniform during breakfast and lunchtimes; however, students are able to dress in smart, casual clothes for dinnertime.

All students are expected to relate to each other and staff in a respectful manner during mealtimes. Sharing meals together is often a highlight in the boarding experience and provides everyone with an opportunity to get to know each other better and share in the highlights of the day.

## Late meals

As a large number of our students are engaged in community and sport activities after school, we always ensure that we have late meals available for all who require it. This also applies to any students who may miss the regular mealtime due to an appointment.

## Special dietary requirements

Our kitchen staff are regularly informed of any student dietary requirements, including allergies and anaphylaxis.

## Food in residences

Our boarding houses also have kitchenette facilities which the students may have access to. This is particularly useful for our Senior students who may be engaged in their studies throughout the course of the evening.



# Leave

There are several different leave opportunities for our boarders during the school term. All boarders have the opportunity to have weekend/evening sign-outs, given that they are signed out to an approved person as identified by the child's parent/family/guardian. This consent can be granted on an ongoing basis to a specifically designated person or can be communicated to boarding staff as a 'once off' via verbal consent.

Parents/families are responsible for ensuring leave they approve for their child is valid and appropriate. Any leave that is over night during the week or will affect student attendance at School will require the approval of the Director of Boarding or delegate in advance.

Significant absences from School will require the approval of the Head of School or Principal.

## Pastoral leave

If extended leave is required, this can be applied for under the category of 'pastoral leave'. Pastoral leave can be granted for various reasons.

Travel and accommodation for parents/family to visit their child in Darwin can also be applied for and arranged by the School in certain circumstances. This can be useful in supporting children who require support from family.

# What to bring

We ask that families apply common-sense when considering what to bring to boarding at the start of the school year and each term. Boarders will be living in shared spaces so this should be kept in mind when packing items. All rooms are vacated at the end of each year and students must take all belongings home for this period. Also, it is recommended that highly valuable items and personal items of sentimental value be left at home. Student common areas are equipped with TVs, Playstations and other entertainment options so these sorts of personal effects should not be brought to boarding. However, we do encourage our boarders to personalise their rooms, so family photos and posters are encouraged to increase the level of comfort our boarders feel at Haileybury Rendall School.

We also encourage that you label all of your child's clothing items before arriving on campus. This is particularly important for school uniform items as these can be easily mixed up with uniform pieces that belong to other students.

## Uniform

The School has a fully equipped Uniform shop on-site. Uniform items are easily accessible and boarding provides support in accessing and fitting these for the student. It is the boarder's responsibility to look after their uniform and ensure that it is not lost or damaged beyond use. Students are provided with regular access to our laundry facilities to ensure that their clothes are fresh and clean.

## Personal appearance

Students are required to take care in their personal hygiene and dress appropriately while staying at Haileybury Rendall School. If a boarder's appearance does not meet School standards (i.e. if a student requires to shave, etc) then a staff member may ask that student to address that element of their appearance.

## Clothing

Students are encouraged to dress comfortably and suitably while in boarding. It is important that students take pride in their appearance and are dressed appropriately for Darwin's tropical climate, across both the wet and dry seasons. Temperatures remain in the 30s throughout the year in Darwin, with cooler evenings during the dry season (April – September). We recommend packing some 'layered' clothing options (such as T-shirts, long sleeved tops, etc) that will allow students to adapt to changes in temperature.

In general, boarders will require three to four comfortable outfits for time spent at boarding. This can include:

- > leggings/jeans/track pants/shorts/skirts
- > a mixture of long and short-sleeved shirts
- > perhaps a jacket.

Students will also be spending time off campus and should pack one to two smart casual outfits that would be suitable to wear on trips to the city, cinemas and shopping centres.

Students should also pack:

- > two or three suitable sleepwear options
- > a week's supply of underwear and socks
- > suitable swimwear for pool or beach activities
- > a hat is also highly recommended given the high UV rays common in Darwin all year round.

## Footwear

Students should bring some casual shoes to boarding as well, as these will be used when not in school uniform. In addition to school shoes, students will need:

- > a pair of running shoes
- > one or two other pairs of shoes
- > beach/pool footwear is also recommended, such as thongs.

## Other items

Students should also consider bringing the following:

- > umbrella
- > personal toiletries (soap, shampoo, non-aerosol deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, nail polish remover, shaving equipment, nail file, hair product, etc)
- > tissues and sanitary items
- > insect repellent and sunscreen
- > sporting equipment
- > phone (at parent/guardian's discretion)
- > water bottle
- > school equipment (bag, books, etc)
- > backpack for day trips/activities
- > small overnight bag for weekend or overnight leave
- > black shoe cleaner and an extra pair of school shoelaces
- > beach towel
- > eftpos card and wallet (at parent/guardian discretion)
- > torch
- > personal medication to be given to School and boarding staff
- > one suitcase only.

## Drugs and alcohol

Illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vaping are prohibited at Haileybury Rendall School Boarding. Our boarding rules are in line with our school expectations and Australian law. None of these materials are allowed anywhere on our campus.

It is the expectation that students do not smoke, drink alcohol or consume illegal drugs as per HRS Policy. Other prohibited items include sharps, aerosols, LED strip lights and energy drinks. Students may bring razors for personal grooming, however these will be kept by staff when not in use.

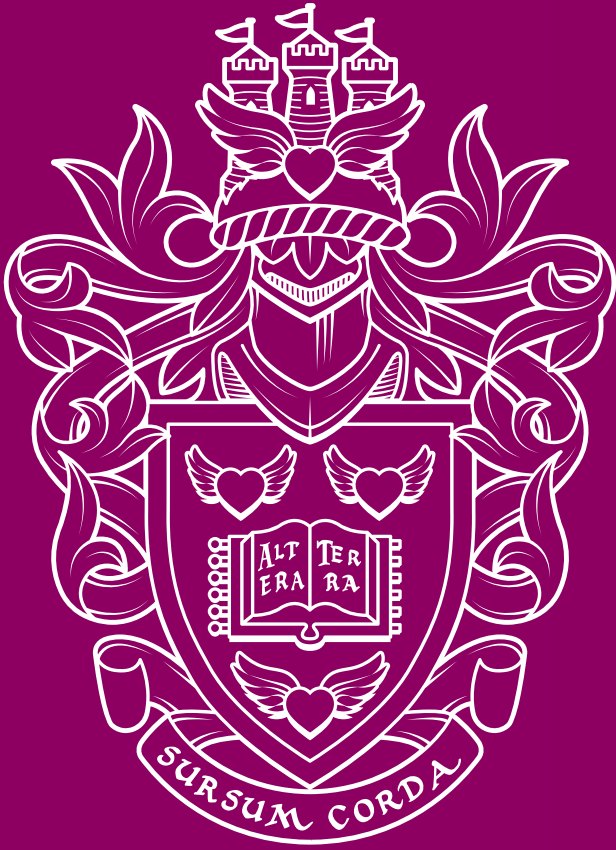


## Contact us

We encourage regular communication between the School and families. Indeed, we believe that those students who have family that are actively engaged in their child's school life often achieve the best learning outcomes. Our boarding staff will be in regular contact, as will students' teachers throughout the course of the academic year.

However, we also encourage families to reach out to key staff whenever required:

- > Director of Boarding – Tom Ziebell
- > Deputy Director of Boarding – Tahlia Bray
- > Head of House, Dewarra – Amelia Laginikoro
- > Head of House, Gumimba – Himesh Sandaradura
- > Head of House, Madjirra – Joyce Chang
- > Head of Operations – Tineale Browne



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