



Parallel education

How — and why — it works at Haileybury



No two students are the same – in how they grow as young people and in the ways they learn. At Haileybury, our clear mission has always been to create learning pathways and opportunities that support every student to build knowledge, develop skills and grow in their own unique way.

From the innovative methods and insights that our brilliant teachers use in the classroom to the strong community spirit that connects our campuses, we draw on a range of strategies to support our students to learn.

A key point of difference—and one of Haileybury’s greatest strengths — is our Parallel Education Model. Boys and girls learn in single-sex classrooms during critical stages of their learning journey, while continuing to come together in co-educational settings for social and co-curricular activities.

Parallel Education delivers the best of both worlds.

Over the years, we have seen first-hand the transformative impact of Parallel Education and how it helps our students to succeed in every aspect of their school life. It is an invaluable, insightful and inspiring feature of the learning experience at Haileybury.

“Haileybury’s program in Melbourne includes the highly successful Parallel Education Model, outstanding teachers, small class sizes, an unmatched level of individual attention, outstanding academic results, an international focus unrivalled by any Australian school, and over 125 years of history.”

Derek Scott
CEO | Principal, Haileybury



What is the Parallel Education Model?

Most schools are either single-sex or co-educational — both approaches have their advantages. Haileybury's Parallel Education Model delivers the benefits of focused single-sex learning alongside the collaborative experiences of co-educational learning.

In practice, from Early Learning to Year 4, boys and girls begin their learning journey at Haileybury together. This is when students learn foundational concepts like phonics and early numeracy in the same classrooms. Teachers use a systematic synthetic phonics approach that helps each student understand the relationship between sounds and letters and that builds oral language, vocabulary, reading fluency and comprehension skills.

From Years 5 to 8 (Middle School) students move into single-sex classrooms. This shift allows teachers to adapt their teaching to meet the learning and developmental needs of young people during these formative years.

Importantly, students share social experiences, co-curricular activities, lunchbreaks and recess in a co-educational setting.

The Parallel Education Model continues throughout the Senior School in Years 9 to 12. By now, students are very familiar with the structure of learning in single-sex classrooms while continuing to build social connections and confidence by sharing a broad range of co-curricular activities together.

This may include being part of a performing arts event together, volunteering to take part in the World's Greatest Shave to raise funds for charity, or being part of an expedition to Nepal to help build a library at a school devastated by floods.





How Parallel Education makes a difference

Parallel Education offers the best of both worlds because it recognises that at different ages and stages of development, students of different genders have varying and specific educational needs.

Research shows that boys and girls both achieve better academic outcomes when they learn in single-sex classrooms, while co-educational settings promote stronger social outcomes.

Haileybury's Parallel Education fosters social interaction and connection between genders, helping each young person grow into a well-rounded, respectful, confident and compassionate individual.

Sharing a campus — and learning in a co-educational classroom until Year 4 — helps students form strong social bonds with each other, and this sense of connection continues after they move into single-sex classrooms.

Haileybury's decades of experience in education have demonstrated that the more engaged and empowered students are through their learning, the more confident they feel to ask questions, to be curious and to explore their passions and grow their minds.



Shaping student success

The Parallel Education Model is a solid foundation on which educators build and fine-tune their teaching methods to specifically meet the needs of students of different genders. In action, this delivers an impactful and enriching classroom experience for each young person.

Haileybury was one of the first schools in Australia to adopt Parallel Education and we have witnessed how this model improves academic outcomes, particularly when it is partnered with smaller class sizes, brilliant teaching and world-class resources.

Our 2024 NAPLAN testing showed that Haileybury's Years 3 and 5 students were reading and writing above the national Years 3 and 5 level – and the national Years 7 and 9 level, too. Continuing this excellent academic achievement, our Year 12 students attain ATAR scores well above the national average.

Each day, inside and outside the classroom, we see the many benefits of the Parallel Education Model in action. Haileybury is proud to have created a learning community where every student matters, every day. Our Parallel Education Model is a vital part of that community and continues to help students become curious and confident young people.

Discover more

To learn more about Haileybury and the Parallel Education Model, or to register for a school tour, please visit: www.haileybury.com.au