

## **Video transcript - Principal Kristen Sharpe**

My name is Kristen Sharpe and I am the Principal at Stuartholme School.

My career has been half boy's education, half girl's education. It's been half in Queensland, half in New South Wales, and then equally independent Catholic schools, or Catholic systemic schools.

The biggest difference between girls and boys for me is that girls aren't naturally wired to believe in themselves, when boys have an innate confidence in many ways. So for me it's about ensuring we can challenge the girls and have them brave and courageous and willing to step forward all the time, and I think that's what girl's schools do very well.

I'm very fortunate here at Stuartholme because the teachers and staff are so dedicated and so passionate. They've absolutely got the girls as their number one focus. They give their time unreservedly.

I believe Stuartholme is different from other schools because of the size of the community. I think it is big enough to offer every opportunity educationally, culturally and sporting wise etcetera, but I think it's small enough for every student to feel known, valued, cared for and supported as well as challenged and pushed to be the best they can be.

Our boarding house is diverse. We have rural girls, indigenous girls, international girls and we have urban girls, all bringing very different experiences to the school. So our diversity here brings another dimension to a sophisticated urban day school. Our boarding house is the heart of the school. 150 girls live here. It is their second home.

The Sacred Heart charism is based on French Catholicism, so continental European Catholicism assumes you're flawed from the start and works with you, so no harshness and judgement, so that's what I love about Sacred Heart. But also the fact is the personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom, is all about ensuring that our girls grow up to be discerning and capable, have lots of choices, but use those choices wisely.

What I hope our Stuartholme graduates enter the world with is a strong personal integrity. That they really know to the core of them what they believe in, what they know is right and wrong. And I hope that they are capable and compassionate, that they have a strong social conscience, and I hope that they go forward and they can really feel they can make a difference in whatever context they choose.