



Coeducation at Friends'

The Friends' School has adopted a holistic approach since it began in 1887. Its first Principal, Samuel Clemes, was an education reformer, and Clemes sought to provide an environment that would provide young men and women with the necessary tools where learning could be pursued 'for its own sake'.

Friends' was a coeducational school from the very beginning. Then, as now, Friends' students received their education in an environment that provided the best representation of a diverse society.

The current Principal Nelson File works every day to lead a school that meets student-focused objectives, and one of those objectives is providing an environment that prioritises equality.

"Coeducation is a natural conclusion when you're seeking equality, and it's integral to Friends'," he said.

"However, we believe coeducation also offers other benefits. Through the mixed gender lens, students have countless opportunities to develop the skills they need to navigate the complexities of social dynamics and general day-to-day social interactions.

"Mature relationships between girls and boys form naturally.

"While there's no question that boys and girls approach many things differently, in a coeducational environment those differences can be experienced openly and even sometimes with humour.

"Developing a compassionate understanding of the relative strengths and weaknesses that all students bring to school every day is integral to forming positive relationships in life."

Within the framework of Quaker values, The Friends' School encourages its students to critically analyse the world around them. And as society becomes increasingly complicated, boys and girls at Friends' are encouraged to work together with compassion, integrity and a desire to do their best.