

Sophia Sarah Stothard - First Headmistress of Auckland Girls' High School – the forerunner of today's Auckland Girls' Grammar School
Auckland Grammar School was established to educate boys in 1869.

At this time the Education Act made no provision for secondary schooling for girls at all. In 1873 a submission was made to the Auckland Grammar Board that young women should receive the same opportunities as young men and despite considerable opposition, as letters to the editor of the NZ Herald clearly showed, it was decided to establish a similar school for girls.

This school opened in 1877 in the former Wesleyan Mission at 490 Queen Street and Sophia Sarah Stothard (who had made the original submission for a girls' school to be established) was invited to be the first Headmistress.

There were about 94 girls (both boarders and day students) ranging in age from 9 to 19, and four teaching staff.

The school curriculum included German, French, Latin, Italian, Algebra, Piano, Singing, Dancing, English History, Natural Science, Elocution and training in "industrial work."

Miss Stothard and her staff faced difficulties with the unsuitable buildings, the wide range of student abilities and financial restraints with income solely dependent on fees paid by students.

An unfavourable report, with the comment that girls would do better with male teachers, saw her offer her resignation after nearly two years and a Headmaster was appointed.

The school struggled on without any endowments or government support through the 1880s.

The school dates its beginnings as Auckland Girls' Grammar School to 1888 when it joined the Auckland Boys Grammar at their site in Symonds Street (2 separate schools on the same site).

In 1907 work building began on the site where the school still sits today and the girls and teachers moved to their permanent home in 1909.