



Encourage a love for learning



The Armidale Waldorf School
and Boongaia Preschool
FOR RUDOLF STEINER EDUCATION

Welcome to our school

The Armidale Waldorf School is an independent school offering programs to children from birth until 14 years of age. Our curriculum provides children with a high standard of academic education in a beautiful natural setting. It balances their intellectual, moral and artistic development, and is based on the teachings of Rudolf Steiner, whose philosophy emphasises the importance of educating the whole person – head, heart and hands.

PlayTime

Ages 0-3

PlayTime is a play group for parents and carers to attend with their children. It emphasises the importance of play in a child's development and accustoms children to structured daily routines.

Play leads to higher self-esteem, better inter-personal competence, higher aspirations, and a heightened motivation for learning and self-efficiency.

Sessions are two and a half hours long, and involve crafts, stories, songs, free play, games and morning tea which the children help prepare.

Boongaiai Preschool

Ages 3-5

Boongaiai Preschool is a community preschool that cares for up to 20 children each day. The environment is warm and nurturing. A typical day includes a balance of self-directed play and adult-directed activities like singing, movement, puppet stories, cooking, gardening and crafts.

Teachers provide clear boundaries and guidance to help children develop skills like empathy, cooperation and listening.

Preschool is open from 8:30am to 3:30pm, five days a week.



Kindergarten

Ages 5-6

The transition from Preschool to Kindergarten is gentle, and creative play remains a priority. Cooperation and sharing skills are also emphasised to nurture social and emotional well-being.

The class day is structured around a predictable schedule called a 'rhythm', with pre-literacy and numeracy skills combined with other activities that develop cognitive learning and fine motor skills.

A typical daily rhythm includes; group circle time with songs, poems and movement, indoor and outdoor self-directed play, morning tea preparation, tidying up, craft time, story time, bush-walk, games, artwork and hand gesture games.



Classes 1 to 8

Ages 7-14

At age seven, children enter Class 1, beginning a wonderful educational journey towards high school.

Children are taught in multi-age classes which create the sense of a small country school. Class 1 and 2, Class 3 and 4, Class 5 and 6, and Class 7 and 8 are each combined.

As children move through the different stages of schooling, teachers remain with their chosen age group thereby specialising in this educational stage.

As they do in PlayTime, Preschool and Kindergarten, children follow a structured schedule or rhythm each day. This allows for periods of deep concentration, artistic expression and physical activity. The balance of these components results in a more productive, less taxing day for students.

The school day is divided into three parts: Main Lesson, Middle Lesson and Afternoon Lesson.

The Main Lesson has an academic focus and is taught during the first two hours of each day. It encompasses Maths, English, History, Geography, Science and Humanities. Each area is studied in-depth over a three or four-week period.

The Middle Lesson focuses on music, language, art and craft, and drama. Art is integral to the curriculum, enhancing the Main Lesson and nurturing imagination, cognitive development and practical skill building.

The Afternoon Lesson is for handiwork like sewing, knitting, weaving and woodwork as well as bush-walking or games.





“Receive the children in reverence; educate them in love;
let them go forth in freedom.” Rudolf Steiner

We welcome you and your child to discover this creative environment and see the opportunities for yourself. Contact us and arrange your tour today.

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