

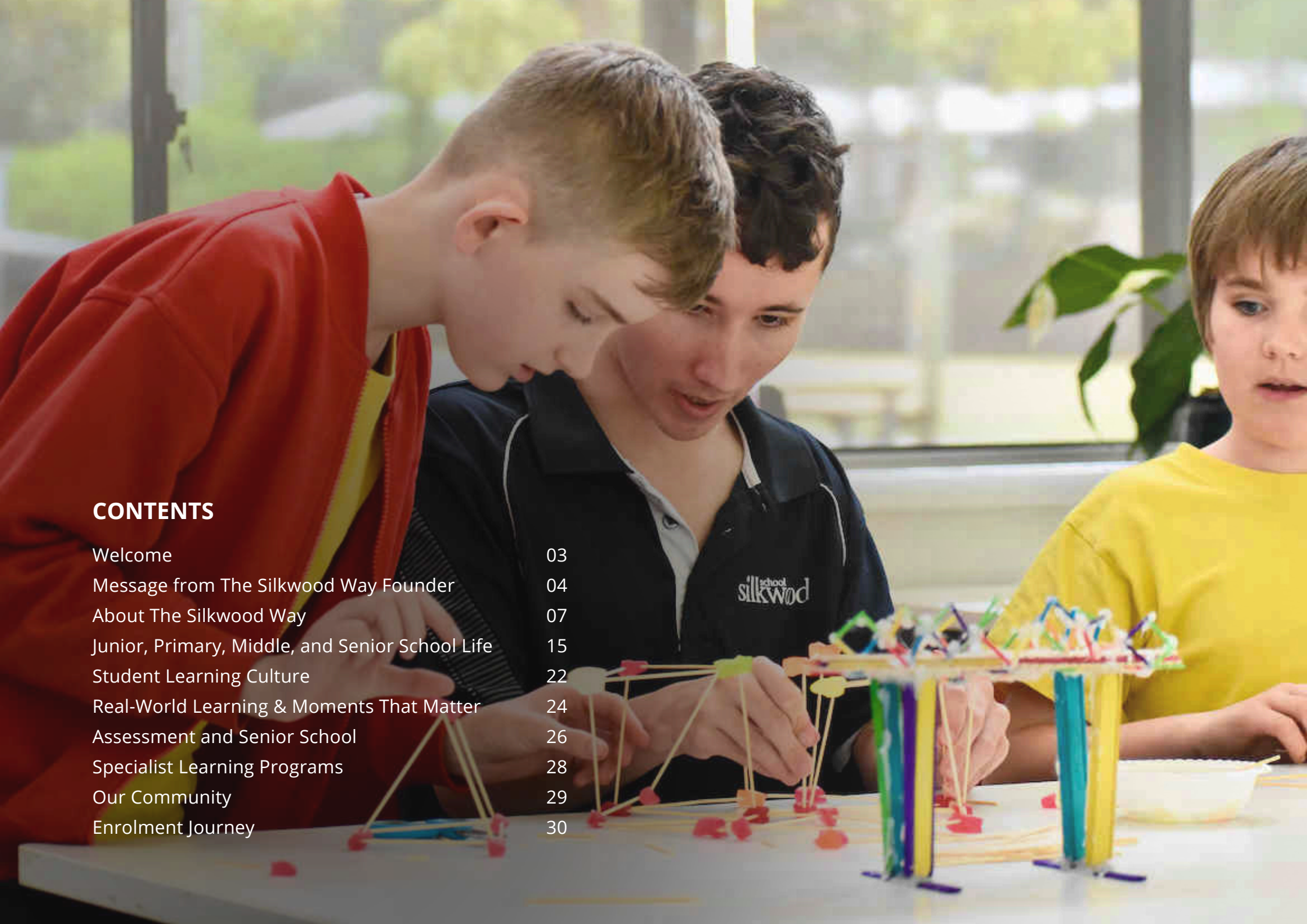


school
silkwood

AN INTRODUCTION TO

THE SILKWOOD WAY

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CONTENTS

Welcome	03
Message from The Silkwood Way Founder	04
About The Silkwood Way	07
Junior, Primary, Middle, and Senior School Life	15
Student Learning Culture	22
Real-World Learning & Moments That Matter	24
Assessment and Senior School	26
Specialist Learning Programs	28
Our Community	29
Enrolment Journey	30

WELCOME TO *SILKWOOD SCHOOL*

MT NATHAN
CAMPUS
AERIAL VIEW



At Silkwood School, we have purposefully redesigned education to prepare young people for the future they're growing into. Located across two locations on the beautiful Gold Coast, we support Prep to Year 12 students through a transformative learning experience that reimagines education in meaningful and empowering ways.

Our approach, known as *The Silkwood Way*, places young people at the heart of their learning journey. We move away from the traditional model of standardised subjects and testing, and instead focus on personalised learning pathways designed to develop 21st-century skills and real-world connections — inspiring students to see the boundless possibilities for their lives.

Silkwood is a co-educational, secular school with over 800 students learning across three campuses and through our Virtual Learning Program. We partner with families, mentors, and the wider community to create meaningful and engaging learning adventures—both on-campus and online. Our approach is inclusive, innovative, and intentionally different, designed to support young people in discovering their own unique path.

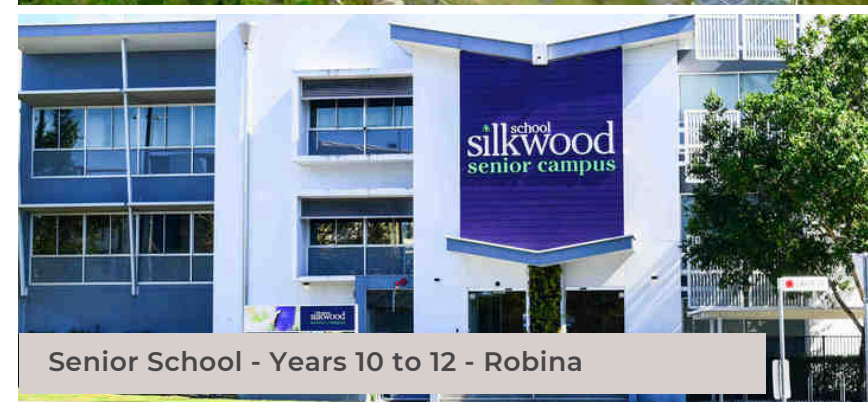
We believe curiosity is a powerful driver of learning. When students are inspired, they engage deeply and learn with purpose. At Silkwood, we don't just support our students to prepare for the future — we help them to shape it!



Primary School - Prep to Year 5 - Mt Nathan



Middle School - Years 6 to 9 - Mt Nathan



Senior School - Years 10 to 12 - Robina

MESSAGE FROM *THE SILKWOOD WAY* FOUNDER

THE SILKWOOD
STORY SO FAR...



Twenty-five years ago, as a mother seeking an empowering educational experience for my two young girls, a seed was sown, and so grew the Silkwood Vision:

Supporting young people to be inspired, get connected and feel empowered to make a positive difference in their lives and the world.

This Vision has guided Silkwood from its humble beginnings with just a Prep class of two students (one being my daughter) in 1997 to include three beautiful campuses with over 800 students. It has and continues to provide a transformative learning journey for thousands of young people from Prep to Year 12.

As our school has grown, so too has our community of families, mentors and guides who believe in doing education differently. Together, we've built something truly special—a place where learning is led with purpose, meaning and heart.

It is this Vision that inspired the development of what we proudly know today as: **The Silkwood Way**, our transformative 21st-century Learning Design. For this reason, you won't find our program anywhere else – it is unique!

— ” —

As you explore The Silkwood Way, you will discover that we do things differently, this is deliberate!

We believe young people today need an education that is responsive to their interests, needs, and our rapidly changing world. They need an uncompromising learning environment that keeps the spirit of learning shining bright in their hearts.

Our Vision is committed to just that and we are unashamed in our pursuit of going after this so young people can thrive in our world.

— ” —

**VALERIE CAMPBELL-HOGG
CEO & FOUNDER OF THE SILKWOOD WAY**





WHY THE SILKWOOD WAY?

The traditional model of education was designed for a different time—when intelligence was measured by content knowledge, and the goal was to prepare students for an industrialised workforce. But the world has changed, and so have the skills needed to thrive in it. An education system built around standardised subjects and tests isn't equipped to lead this shift. At Silkwood, we have created a model that embraces this change—one that's built for the world our young people are stepping into.

SUCCESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY REQUIRES A DIFFERENT SKILL SET:

DESIGN & CRITICAL
THINKERS

INNOVATORS

CHANGE AGENTS

ENTREPRENEURS

WE BELIEVE IN SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO:

- Be inspired and engaged
- Feel connected to their world and community
- Be empowered to make a positive difference

In response to this, we have intentionally designed:

THE SILKWOOD WAY — A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL MODEL THAT IS LEADING THIS CHANGE.





THE SILKWOOD WAY AIMS:

At Silkwood, learning is not confined by traditional, standardised year-level subjects. Instead, we have defined the essential content, skills, and capabilities needed to thrive in the 21st century through our Silkwood Way Aims.

In partnership with families, mentors, and the wider school team, Advisors (teachers) guide and support students to progress through their learning at their own pace, working towards achieving The Silkwood Way Aims.

1

To use creative, innovative, and critical thinking to make a difference.

4

To accept life's challenges with a resilient and flexible attitude.

7

To turn dreams and ideas into reality.

10

To use passion, talent, and skills to create engaging work that contributes positively to our world.

2

To see the adventure, opportunity, connections, and possibilities in life.

5

To communicate with empathy, openness, and integrity.

8

To act with respect towards themselves, others and our world.

3

To create financial independence in win/win ways.

6

To embrace fun and live with curiosity.

9

To create a happy and healthy life balance.



THE SILKWOOD WAY LEARNING PATHWAYS

➤ Bringing The Silkwood Way Learning Design to life are eight Learning Pathways.

**21ST-CENTURY
COMMUNICATION**

CRITICAL THINKING

21ST-CENTURY NUMERACY

**ENTREPRENEURIAL AND
CREATIVE THINKING**

**PERSONAL AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

THE ARTS

**ETHICAL AND
INTERCULTURAL
AWARENESS**

**LEARNING 'HOW'
TO LEARN**

While they function like a traditional curriculum by defining what students learn, they are not bound by standardised year-level subjects. Instead, our pathways focus on developing the content, skills, and capabilities essential for thriving in the 21st century — The Silkwood Way Aims.



THE SILKWOOD WAY LEARNING FRAMES

To support meaningful and manageable learning, each pathway is broken into sequenced steps called Learning Progressions. These are organised into four learning frames that guide students through a mix of group and individual activities, and personalised learning experiences—all designed to suit different learning styles and stages.

ESSENTIAL



An **individualised program** focused on mastering English and Math skills needed for success in the 21st century.

EXPLORING



A **year-level program** building knowledge, literacy, and capacity as adventurers, performers, artisans, sportspeople, and enterprisers.

DISCOVERY



An **individualised program** to support students to progress their physical, social, and emotional capabilities.

PERSONAL INTEREST LEARNING TIME (PILT)



A **project-based program** focused on exploring students' personal interests and passions and connecting these to real-world learning.

Each frame is designed to support different aspects of student growth and development, offering a well-rounded and flexible approach to learning.

LEARNING IN THE SILKWOOD WAY



The Silkwood Way Advisory Model

A vital part of our Learning Design's success is ensuring each student is well supported so that personalised learning can flourish. Research shows that smaller schools and classes are essential to making this happen.

Our Advisory Model keeps learning personal, connected, and meaningful. Using the Big Picture Education advisory approach, coupled with our developmental approach, students work in small advisory groups with the same Advisor, supporting strong relationships and personalised learning.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Schools are structured into smaller Learning Communities consisting of around 250 students aligned to a developmental phase.

ADVISORY CYCLES

Learning Communities are intentionally designed around two to three year Advisory Cycles, aligned with developmental stages.

ADVISORY CLASSES

Students learn in year-level groups called advisories, with the same Advisor for each two to three year cycle.

LEARNING IN THE SILKWOOD WAY

The Silkwood Way Advisory Approach

The CEO oversees all campuses and a Head of School oversees each Learning Community.

Each advisory group is led by an Advisor. More than teachers, Advisors support students to set goals, design personalised learning pathways, and grow with purpose through The Silkwood Way. They bring teaching expertise, leadership, and foster positive partnerships between students, families, and Advisors.

An Advisor is not only a qualified teacher, but also a specialist in age-appropriate teaching strategies and in planning, delivering, and assessing The Silkwood Way learning program.

What does an Advisor do differently to a traditional teacher?

Differentiate, individualise, and personalise learning

Connect to real-world learning opportunities

Support students to progress learning goals

Support wellbeing and learning progress

The Silkwood Way's advisory approach moves the traditional student-teacher relationship into a partnership between an Advisor and a learner and keeps our schools small, personal, and connected.

“We are more than educators—we are mentors and guides, supporting students to shape their own future.”





JUNIOR SCHOOL LIFE

PREP AND YEAR 1

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS – NURTURING WONDER AND STRENGTHENING THE BODY

In the early years of school, children are immersed in what we call the Physical Phase of development — a time when the foundations of brain and body development are still forming. At this stage, young learners thrive through doing, moving, creating, and engaging in rich, sensory-filled experiences that spark curiosity and wonder.

At Silkwood, we honour this critical phase of growth by creating an environment where learning comes alive through action and exploration. Our Junior School program is designed to support the natural rhythms of childhood, with a focus on developing physical coordination, social confidence, and emotional resilience through meaningful, hands-on experiences.

OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS ENGAGE WITH LEARNING THROUGH:

- Self-directed play and imaginative exploration
- Movement games and kinaesthetic activities
- Cooking, arts, and crafts
- Teacher-guided inquiry provocations that nurture curiosity
- Real-world learning experiences through incursions and community connections

This approach lays the groundwork for a lifelong love of learning — one that begins with joy, connection, and wonder.





PRIMARY SCHOOL LIFE

YEARS 2 TO 5

NOURISHING CREATIVITY – DEVELOPING A SENSE OF SELF THROUGH NATURE, THE ARTS, AND CREATIVE THINKING

In the Primary years, students enter what we call the Creative Phase of development — a time when imagination evolves into a desire to question, explore, and understand the world around them. Curiosity grows deeper, and learning becomes a joyful search for meaning and purpose.

At Silkwood, we nurture this stage by blending rich knowledge-building experiences with creative expression and outdoor exploration. Our Primary School program encourages students to think critically, act imaginatively, and build confidence in who they are becoming.

CHILDREN ENGAGE IN LEARNING THROUGH:

- Storytelling and traditional cultural tales
- Visual and performing arts
- Outdoor learning and nature-based activities
- Inquiries into ancient worlds and hands-on histories
- Student-led projects connected to personal interests and ideas

This approach strengthens creativity, independence, and a sense of self — building strong foundations for confident, connected learners.





MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE

YEARS 6 TO 9

TANGLING WITH LIFE – EXPLORING WHO I AM AND WHAT I STAND FOR

Middle School is a time of transformation — a developmental phase we call the Exploring Phase. During these years, young people begin to assert their independence, navigate physical and emotional changes, and question the world and their place within it. It's a sensitive and self-reflective time, best supported by experiences that challenge, inspire, and connect them to something bigger than themselves.

At Silkwood, our Middle School program is designed to balance personal growth with purposeful learning. We create space for students to explore their identity, discover their values, and test their strengths through meaningful challenges and real-world experiences.

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN LEARNING THROUGH:

- Adventure-based challenges that build resilience and confidence
- Inquiry projects that explore global issues and personal interests
- Community initiatives that develop empathy and purpose
- Studies of explorers, changemakers, and the natural world
- Reflection, dialogue, and metacognitive thinking to deepen self-awareness

This approach lays the foundation for a strong sense of identity, sharpening critical thinking and preparing students to meet life's challenges with courage and clarity.





SENIOR SCHOOL LIFE

YEARS 10 TO 12

USING MY VOICE – EXPRESSING WHO I AM, EXPLORING MY LIFE POSSIBILITIES

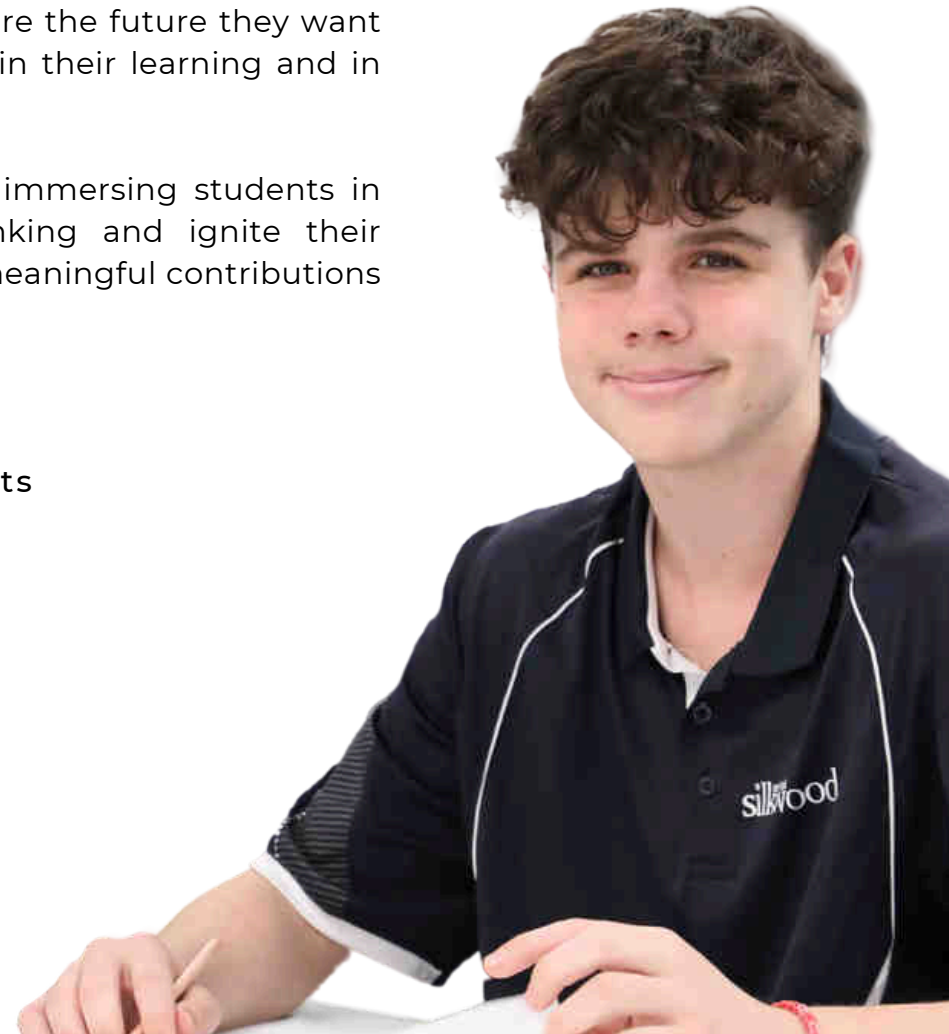
In the Senior years, students step into what we call the Expressive Phase — a time when they are ready to express who they are, stand for what matters to them, and explore the future they want to create. With a stronger sense of self, they are eager to take the lead in their learning and in shaping their path beyond school.

At Silkwood, our Senior School program responds to this readiness by immersing students in complex, real-world projects and experiences that stretch their thinking and ignite their aspirations. We support them to explore purposeful pathways and make meaningful contributions — both now and into the future.

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN LEARNING THROUGH:

- Real-world learning adventures and community impact projects
- Mentorships and internships aligned with their personal goals
- Deep inquiry into topics that inspire and challenge them
- Creative and academic pathways tailored to individual futures
- Authentic opportunities to express their voice and leadership

This is a learning journey that treats students as capable young adults — empowering them to explore life's possibilities with confidence, purpose, and heart.



THE SILKWOOD WAY

STUDENT LEARNING CULTURE

At Silkwood, we believe that the environment in which students learn is just as important as the program itself. Our Student Learning Culture is designed to create an atmosphere that supports:

- Self-management
- Collaboration
- Focused and respectful learning
- Social and emotional growth

Research shows that students thrive when their learning feels meaningful and relevant. That's why every student has an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) — a personalised roadmap that supports their learning journey and strengthens our student culture. We return to this plan as a guide when challenges arise or growth opportunities emerge.

OUR APPROACH IS UNDERPINNED BY:

A DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH:

Expectations and processes are aligned to suit each student's developmental phase.

A LEARNING MINDSET:

We understand that behaviour can be improved and progressed. We view this as a valued learning process.

AN AUTHORITATIVE STYLE:

We balance clear expectations with care, placing our Values and Guiding Principles at the centre of how we support behaviour rather than rules and consequences.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE:

Through reflective dialogue, we help students understand their actions, take accountability, and repair harm — building stronger connections and community.



THE SILKWOOD WAY STUDENT LEARNING CULTURE

At Silkwood, we believe young people are naturally driven to learn. Our role is to help them discover more about themselves to:

Understand their impact

Respect themselves, others, and the world

Communicate and respond with maturity

This supports students in feeling empowered to become self-aware and to take responsibility for their actions — essential for thriving in life.

Behavioural development is embedded in everyday learning. Just as students set learning goals, they also grow skills for:

HEALTHY THINKING

POSITIVE HABITS

LEARNING ENGAGEMENT

SOCIAL CONNECTION

THE SILKWOOD WAY STUDENT VALUES

Our Student Values sit at the heart of a safe and connected learning culture:

Being Connected

Thinking Innovatively

Learning Courageously

Living Respectfully

Each Learning Community brings these to life through age-appropriate Guiding Principles. These help shape behaviour through reflection and shared values.



REAL-WORLD MENTORS AND LEARNING ADVENTURES

REAL WORLD
ADVENTURES
VIDEO



REAL WORLD
MENTORS
VIDEO



▶ WE USE THE WORLD AS OUR CAMPUS Connecting learning to life beyond the classroom.

Silkwood students connect with mentors, complete internships, and engage in real-world projects from Prep to Year 12. These purposeful experiences extend learning beyond the classroom and school walls.

Advisors guide the journey for students to seek mentors with real-world expertise aligned to their passions. These personalised connections offer real-world insights and support for students as they take meaningful steps toward shaping their future paths.

▶ REAL WORLD ADVENTURES - SILKWOOD CAMPS

Beginning in Year 2, Real-World Adventures challenge students to grow independence, build resilience, and strengthen peer relationships.

These extended outdoor experiences connect students with nature and deepen their understanding of self, others, and place. Each journey supports students to step beyond their comfort zone and discover their capacity to lead, contribute, and connect with Country — a vital part of our Discovery Learning Frame.

MOMENTS THAT MATTER

TERMLY
FESTIVAL
VIDEO



TRANSITION &
GRADUATION &
VIDEO



While learning is exceptional every day at Silkwood, we have designed special Silkwood traditions to connect, acknowledge, celebrate, and honour students on their Silkwood journey.

► THESE MOMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO:

- Create unforgettable memories for young people to draw on as meaningful support throughout their lives, which we call 'peak moments'
- Provide significant whole learning community developmental experiences
- Deepen intercultural and natural world connections.

► THEY INCLUDE:

- Termly festivals
- Transition and Graduation ceremonies
- Student birthday celebrations
- Culminating events that are part of our Learning Program
- Whole campus days that engage students in activities to use their thinking and creative skills
- School-wide events that honour specific groups of people, i.e. Grandparents Day
- Australian or world celebrations aligned with our program



DOING ASSESSMENT DIFFERENTLY

At Silkwood, we view learning as a continuous journey rather than a single moment measured by tests or report cards. Each student has a Personal Learning Profile (PLP) that tracks their goals, progress, and growth over time. Twice a year, students lead an exhibition where they share their learning journey, highlight achievements and challenges, and reflect with family members, Advisors, and mentors. These exhibitions offer a powerful, authentic way to celebrate progress and deepen connections between students and their learning.

As students move into the Senior School, their exhibition work evolves into a comprehensive Graduate Portfolio — a curated body of work spanning Years 10 to 12. This portfolio showcases each student's ability to explore, research, and grow within their areas of interest.

A GRADUATE PORTFOLIO INCLUDES:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ▶ A Senior Thesis Project | ▶ Service-Learning Project |
| ▶ A Series of Learning Plans | ▶ An Autobiography |
| ▶ A Series of Project Exhibitions | ▶ Student video profile |
| ▶ LTI Projects | ▶ A Post-School Project |

The Silkwood Way provides a meaningful alternative to standardised assessments, fostering deep engagement, continuous commitment, and thoughtful reflection — creating a rich and authentic learning journey.



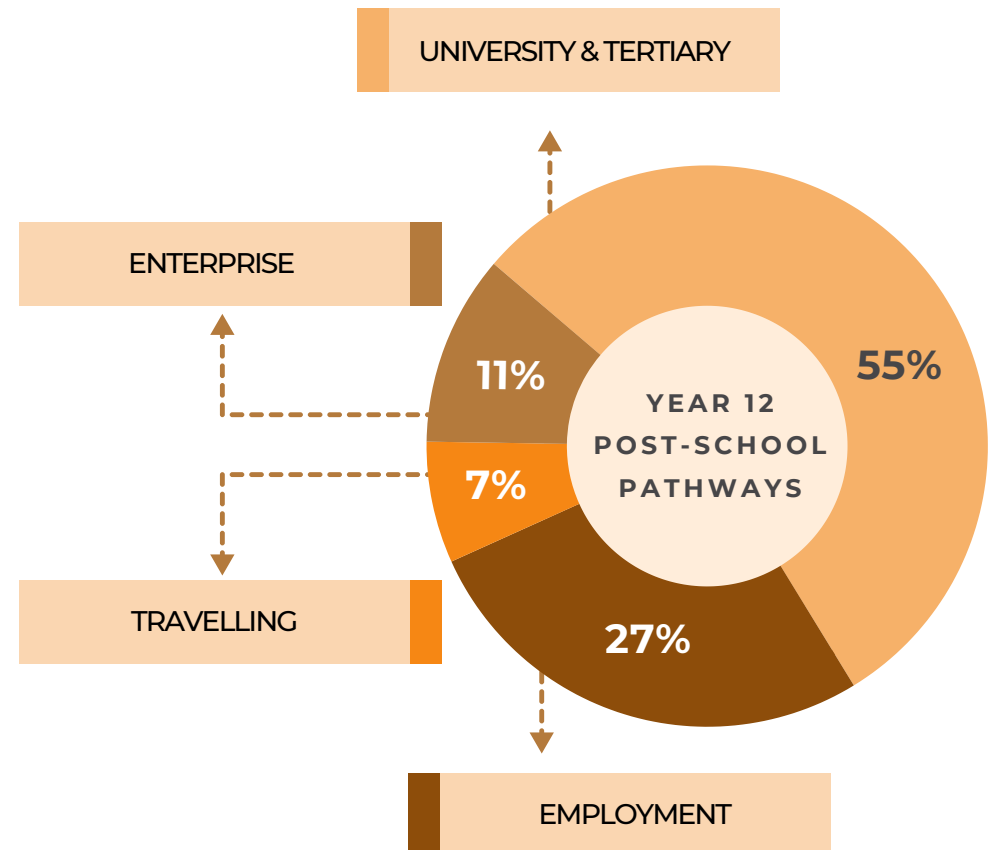
DOING SENIOR SCHOOL DIFFERENTLY

A HEAD START IN LIFE

Silkwood's Senior School Program focuses on real-world readiness through:

- **Personalised Pathways:** Students co-design post-school plans aligned with their passions — university, travel, business, creative industries, employment — the possibilities are boundless!
- **Internships & Mentors:** From Year 10, students gain authentic industry experience through placements with professional mentors.
- **Creative, Business & Vocational Options:** Opportunities to build ventures, explore passions, or earn vocational qualifications.
- **Direct University Entry (No ATAR Needed):** Students access early entry, portfolio pathways, or alternative qualifications aligned to their post-school pathway goals.

➤ **100%** of students who sought a university pathway received an offer.



SPECIALIST LEARNING PROGRAMS



At Silkwood, we offer a rich variety of specialist learning programs that spark curiosity, encourage personal growth, and bring learning to life beyond the classroom. These opportunities play a key role in helping young people develop valuable skills and explore new interests.

ITALIAN LANGUAGE LESSONS:

From Prep to Year 7, all students engage in weekly Italian lessons that support cognitive development and cultural understanding. From Year 8 onwards, Italian becomes an elective and continues to be woven into learning through collaboration with Advisories.

SPECIALIST MUSIC PROGRAM:

A year-level music program, timetabled weekly from Prep to Year 7, develops foundational rhythmic and melodic skills essential for musical literacy.

SPORT & GAMES:

Being physically active is important for a young person's development. At Silkwood, physical learning begins with playful movement and street games in Junior School, evolving into structured sports and competitions in the Senior years — with a focus on agility, teamwork, and fun.



OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

We pride ourselves on being a progressive school demonstrating that a transformative educational approach can co-exist peacefully alongside a traditional system. We see this as a living example of inclusivity, diversity, and modern activism. This gives us much to talk about with our students about finding peaceful and meaningful ways to bring together ideas and work together to make positive change to our world.

Our community values are:

Honouring diversity and inclusivity

To work in partnership to achieve the Silkwood Way Aims

Courageously growing, learning and leading

Acting with respect towards each other

SAYING YES TO THE SILKWOOD WAY MEANS A COMMITMENT TO RESPECTFULLY ENGAGE WITH OUR COMMUNITY VALUES.

We welcome opportunities for parent involvement through volunteering, supporting school initiatives, or sharing expertise. We also offer guidance to help families positively support their child's individual learning path within The Silkwood Way.



THE SILKWOOD WAY ENROLMENT PROCESS

BEGIN YOUR
SILKWOOD
JOURNEY
TODAY!



We invite families to join us on a journey of discovery through the following key steps:

REQUIRED STEPS			
Enrolment Application	Parent Information Course	Enrolment Interview	Enrolment Offer and Contract
Submit your application with supporting documents (a small administration fee applies).	Join a group information session to explore our unique learning design and gain a deeper understanding of how we do education differently.	Attend a formal enrolment interview with a Silkwood Leader about your child's goals and values.	If successful, and a suitable place is available, you will receive a letter of offer and a contract to confirm your child's place.
OPTIONAL STEPS			
Enrolment Enquiry	Open Afternoon & Tours	Spend the Day	
Submit a short online form to share your interest and to be kept informed about engagement opportunities and events.	Visit our campuses, meet our team & students, and see The Silkwood Way in action.	As a final step in the enrolment journey, your child visits for a day to experience our environment and connects with peers.	

Our enrolment process is intentionally designed to support a successful start to your Silkwood journey. Each step provides valuable insight into The Silkwood Way, helping families build a deep understanding of our learning design, culture, and values — so when your child begins, they are ready to thrive.

— ” —

Young people’s schooling time is valuable – What better gift to give than honouring this time by allowing young people the opportunity to explore things they are interested in, try out real-world work and learn things useful to help them thrive in the world.

— ” —

VALERIE CAMPBELL-HOGG
CEO & FOUNDER OF THE SILKWOOD WAY





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MIDDLE SCHOOL

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