

# Prospectus

Where creative artistry and practical  
experience meet academic excellence

Playgroup  
Preschool  
Primary School  
High School  
Senior College



Inspiring creative and flexible thinking, resilience, and an enthusiasm to engage in life.



# Principal's Welcome



The word 'Orana' is understood to have derived from a Wiradjuri word meaning 'welcome'. I think this is very apt. My experience of the place has been, and continues to be that of a warm, friendly and inclusive place.

I'd like to welcome you to Orana and hope you can join us on our journey to building a generous, big-hearted community – a learning village where all members can make real contributions. A place where adventure and challenge are encouraged, and creativity is nurtured. A healthy place for all, with opportunities in the development of academic, physical, practical and artistic skills, and the fostering of independence and resilience in young people.

We value compassion, truth and wisdom. We have a great belief in personal transformation and growth in young people, and providing hope for them in a changing world.

I know Orana has gone through some challenging times in the last few years, as have many schools. In the coming years our school community will be working on our skills in observation, conversation, collaboration, thinking, making and doing to affect positive change in the world.

At Orana, we see every student as an artist, scientist, carer, leader, and contributor. Our school is a vibrant, hopeful place where young people are supported and challenged in their learning journey by committed staff who understand the needs of developing human beings. We are very fortunate to have a beautiful natural and built environment that we enjoy sharing.

Welcome!

**James Goodlet**  
**Principal**

Our goal is to ignite within each child a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime.



# Discover Orana

## The Steiner Philosophy

The curriculum and philosophy of Dr Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) is grounded in engaging students deeply in their learning and connecting them to the natural and social worlds by encouraging imagination, empathy, creativity and individuality.

Orana Steiner School was established in 1981 and is now one of the largest of over 40 Steiner schools across Australia in terms of enrolment numbers. One fundamental premise of our curriculum is an emphasis on connectedness and integration. From Early Learning through to Year 12, the education of every young person is fully supported by a unique curriculum designed to meet and nourish the needs of each stage of development.

## The Orana Difference

The only Steiner school in the ACT, Orana is a safe and caring school where like-minded staff, students and parents form strong partnerships that uphold the Steiner philosophy. At Orana, we believe inclusivity, agile-thinking, problem-solving, flexibility and collaboration are important skills students need to learn if they are to thrive in a challenging world.

Our teachers are passionate about providing an education with a distinct difference – one that seamlessly blends both the Australian and global Steiner Curriculums to guide students towards positive future pathways with a sense of purpose.

Orana Steiner School offers a balance of academic, artistic and practical activities so that each child is thoroughly prepared for life. Through this comprehensive approach, students come to know the world in all its diversity and complexity, empowered to find their place and be motivated to connect and participate, now and in the future.

## Our Campus

Orana occupies a stunning 16 hectare site incorporating both natural and landscaped grounds. Our students are immersed in the beauty of their surroundings which provide an inspiring journey of learning and exploration. Just a few kilometres from the city centre, Orana offers a wonderful space for school and play – a country atmosphere within the city.

Every day, learning is enhanced through our calming campus experience. Students gain a deeper understanding of personal and social responsibility as they grow and connect with the people and nature around them. Each classroom is considered a sacred place, and we ensure our facilities nurture all aspects of learning. Orana's buildings, gardens and play areas are designed and oriented to embrace the natural surroundings, paying tribute to our Steiner philosophy.

## Education for Life

A unique and inclusive journey at Orana Steiner School inspires students to grow into confident, capable and creative young people, with a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime.

“To educate the whole child, his heart and his will must be reached, as well as the mind.”

Dr Rudolf Steiner

# Transition From Home

**With a home-like atmosphere, the transition from home or day care is always made with love and care at Orana. The welcoming warmth of our teachers ensures a calm and secure space for our youngest learners as they take those first steps along their educational journey.**

Each child is received with reverence and respect for their individuality, and is encouraged through positive modelling to respect themselves and others. Parental support for the Steiner philosophy, curriculum and program, and honest and respectful communication with teachers is vital to enhancing the children's strengths, skills and knowledge.

Children learn primarily through imitation, play and habit, absorbing their experiences in a largely unconscious way. Our transitional program gently encourages each child to be self-motivated, and to understand their world in the most age-appropriate way. The environment is ordered, clean and purpose designed, with a rhythmic structure to each day building feelings of confidence and stability, from which flows creative play, exploration and discovery.

The natural phases and rhythms of child development guide both the introduction of content and the methods of instruction. Good habits established in these early years form the foundation for learning in the greater school and throughout life. Activities are designed to help the children develop strong bodies, balance and motor movement. Imagination and creativity are nourished through the use of storytelling, painting, baking, music and song all designed to fit within a carefully constructed Steiner early childhood curriculum.

## Playgroup


The Orana Steiner School Playgroup creates a warm, nurturing environment for children aged 0 to 4 years. It offers parents the opportunity to connect with fellow families in a friendly, caring and inclusive place. Activities include inside and outside free-play, baking, singing, stories, morning tea and seasonal craft activities.

We strive to achieve a healthy balance between the social and cultural needs of each family, and an awareness of what is happening around the children. These interactions help prepare the children for school through opportunities to forge friendships with others of similar ages.

“Orana Steiner School provides a beautiful community for children to learn and grow.”

Heidi, Orana parent



A young girl with her hair in two braids, wearing a pink hoodie and a floral skirt, stands with her arms raised in a classroom. Other children and an adult in a white apron are visible in the background, also with their arms raised. The scene is brightly lit and appears to be a group activity.

“It is important that we discover an educational method where people learn to learn and go on learning their whole lives.”

Rudolf Steiner

# Early Childhood

## Philosophy

Our Early Childhood Program lays essential foundations for physical health and vitality, while encouraging our younger learners' natural sense of wonder in the world and eagerness to explore and learn. We accord equal value to developing the cognitive, social, emotional and physical abilities of each child, with the aim of supporting positive self-image, confidence and their sense of belonging.

Experiencing the outdoors in all sorts of weather is deeply valued and embedded in our daily learning and our Early Childhood philosophy. It is such a fundamental part of teaching the whole child, or “body, soul and spirit” in Steiner education. The benefits of nature-based play have been widely researched and proven to be a great foundation for critical thinking, connection and creativity later in life. Orana's natural bush landscape is immensely sensory, especially for young children.

## Pre-Preschool and Pre-School

As our young learners run, dig, explore, build and play, they overcome challenges and build on their resilience and self-reliance.

The daily rhythm is a consistent foundation from which children can develop the skills that will later evolve into the strength and maturity needed to excel in the primary school environment. The development of the “will” to follow through on completing tasks such as making pompoms or finger knitting, painting using primary water colors and baking bread for lunch, is a creative approach to the competence that will later become holding a pencil, mathematics and science when academics is introduced in later years.

Our Pre-Preschoolers (3 year olds who are fully toilet trained) and Pre Schoolers (4 year olds) flourish with daily activities reflecting the natural order of life, as they gather the confidence, independence and security to take the next steps along their schooling journey.

# Primary School

**During Primary School, we recognise in students a burgeoning imaginative thinking ability which flourishes in an environment filled with creative endeavour. An Orana education meets a child's developmental phases with appropriate tasks and content at every stage. This ensures our balance of academic, artistic and practical experiences develop each child's head, hands and heart.**

## The Class Teacher

A feature of Primary education in Steiner schools is that, where possible, the Class Teacher moves with the children from Year 1 through to Year 6 as a guardian and mentor to the class group, developing a deeper understanding of each child and greater connection with families.

## Main Lessons

The Main Lesson approach in Steiner education allows each class to explore an academic theme through a range of integrated activities, guided by their Class Teacher. This lesson is held over two hours each morning, with a new topic introduced every three weeks. This allows for daily review and deepening of the theme and its principal questions.

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten at Orana is a calm and caring space for children to grow into capable and kind individuals, with each day designed around a predictable rhythm providing structure and stability.

The children's joy in learning flows through real experiences and nature-based activities that entice them deeply into each season or festival celebration, connecting with the beauty of the Earth. Within a balanced environment, Kindergarten students are guided in pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills that complement their imaginative, cognitive and social development.

The children work towards autonomy and independence in all they do. A Kindergarten day at Orana is filled with creative play, art, handwork and crafts, music and song, stories and make-believe. Involvement in activities including gardening, baking, cleaning and caring for the materials in the room, is thoughtfully adjusted to each child's needs and capabilities.

Our passionate Kindergarten teachers are highly attuned to the developmental needs of the six-year-old child — establishing healthy learning foundations for Primary School and beyond. (Continued over)



“My children can’t wait to attend school each day. I only wish I’d attended.”

Megan, Orana parent



### Lower Primary Years 1-3

Learning in Lower Primary years is based on feeling, with children’s intellectual skills and capacity to make independent judgements unfolding gradually. Orana students are offered stories rich with metaphors, morals and images, interwoven with high quality arts and crafts to challenge all aspects of their imagination.

Class Teachers engage students in Literacy, Numeracy, Art, Health, Sport and aspects of Drama. Specialist teachers enhance learning with Library, Music, Woodwork and Design, Science, Languages, Physical Education, Outdoor Classroom and Handwork throughout each year.

### Upper Primary Years 4-6

Orana’s Upper Primary students learn to recognise their strengths and limitations, plan tactics and strategies, evaluate and make informed decisions to improve as they mature and grow. Students in Years 4-6 are ready for a wider approach and broader range of Humanities and Science subject areas as they approach High School.

### Electronic Media and the Young Child

Our vision is for Orana students to learn social responsibility as they grow and connect with the people and natural world around them. Our unique education is distinctly different because it offers a rigorous curriculum that encourages deeper, real-world thinking.

The presence and strong effects of television and other electronic devices in a young student’s life can cause them great distress instead of a time of wonderment and delight. The child may lack concentration and focus, unable to extend their imagination or flourish creatively — the very foundations for positive learning and growth. For this reason, the introduction of electronic media is delayed in Steiner education, and we encourage our families to avoid screen time before school or bedtime, to improve the quality of their child’s learning.



# High School

**Our High School students are encouraged to be independent thinkers. They become increasingly responsible for their own learning and to develop their own ideals, values and sense of purpose. In this way they establish an active, articulate and well-rounded capacity for engaged, real-world learning.**

## Years 7-10

Following both the National and Steiner Curriculum Framework, the Main Lesson topics for Orana's High School students are substantial and challenge all students at their appropriate learning stage. Main Lessons include Maths, Science, Humanities (including English, History, Geography, Civics and Economics), Languages, Creative Arts, Design and Technologies.

## Electives

Year 7 and 8 students explore Creative Arts in further detail through Textiles, Visual Arts, Woodwork, Metalwork, Music, Information Technology, Drama, STEM and Textiles.

In Years 9 and 10, students are given the opportunity to choose two Creative Arts and Design Technology elective subjects each semester. This allows them to delve further into areas they connect with most. These may include Drama, Music, Textiles Technology, Digital Technology, Woodwork, Metalwork and Visual Art.

## Physical Education and Health

Physical Education and Health are mandatory components for students in Years 7 to 10. Physical Education allows students to explore issues that are likely to impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves and others throughout their lifetime. They also participate in challenging and rewarding physical activity, improving their movement and confidence.

Orana hosts and participates in a number of sporting events throughout the year including Cross Country, Netball, Rowing, Snow Sports (from Year 9), Swimming, and Track and Field.

## Camps

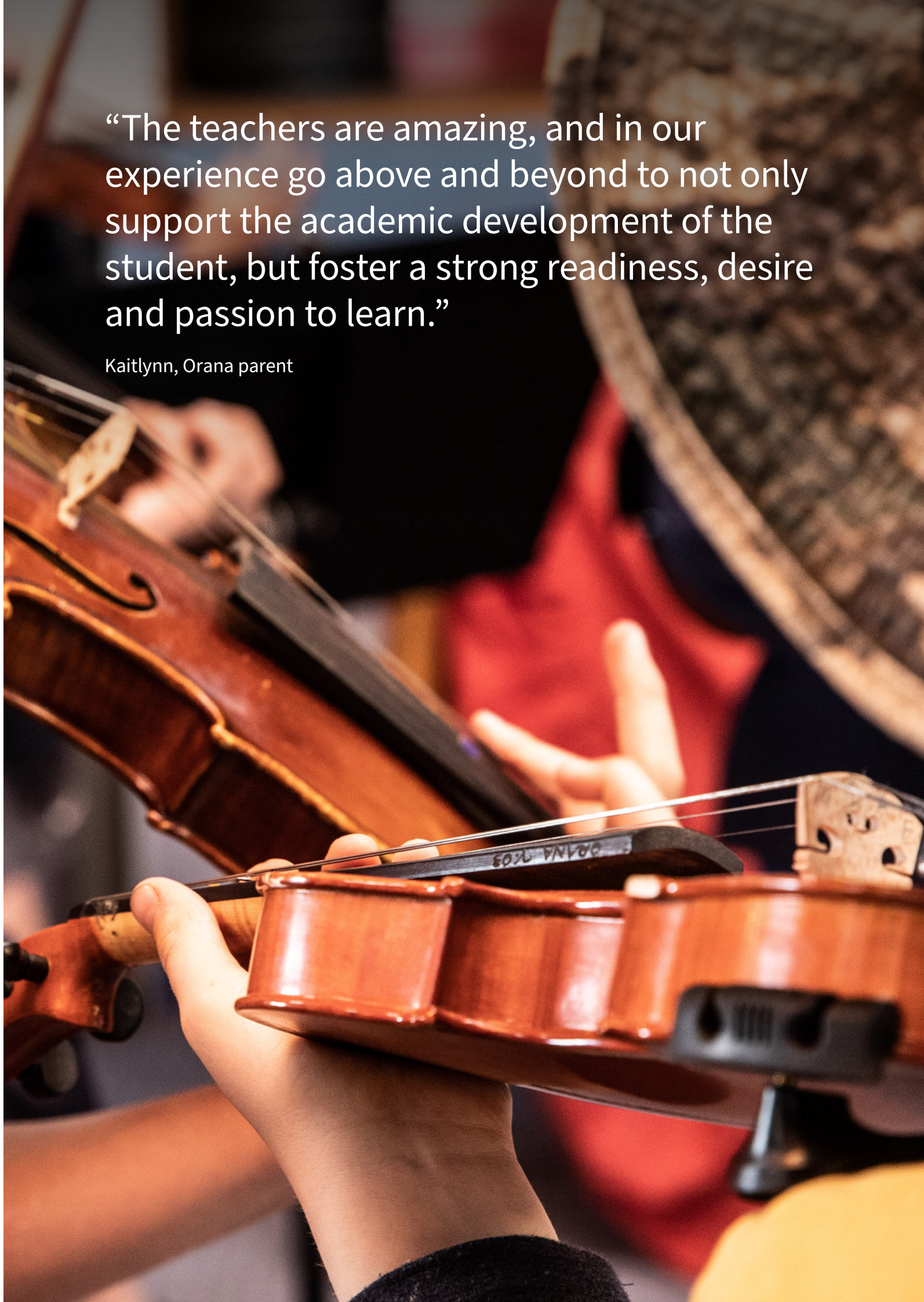
Camps play a key role in Orana's curriculum. They are designed to foster connections within cohorts, providing shared experiences through challenging activities which encourage critical thinking relating to environment, social justice and global issues. Camps are held annually at different locations for each year group.

## Pastoral Care

In these transitional years, teenagers who are part of a community feel connected, have a strong sense of belonging, experience improved self-esteem and the confidence to seek support in times of social, emotional or academic need.

At Orana, our High School Pastoral Care Team works collaboratively with our Inclusive Education Team and Specialist teachers to nurture self-assured and creative young people who are well positioned to pursue positive futures.

Each year group is appointed two Guardians who develop a deep knowledge of the students as they move together through High School. Guardians are the first point of contact for students and families when extra support or consideration is needed.



“The teachers are amazing, and in our experience go above and beyond to not only support the academic development of the student, but foster a strong readiness, desire and passion to learn.”

Kaitlynn, Orana parent

Dedicated teachers are at the heart of this school and every person employed there makes it a special place.

Chris, Orana parent

## Senior College

**Senior College at Orana is the culmination of all that has come before in the student's education. Year 12 is a year of synthesis and more conscious awareness of all students have learnt.**

Our Senior students take an active leadership role in the school and are always expected to show positive attitudes and behaviours through opportunities to work with younger classes and to engage in community service.

### Years 11-12

Senior College sees the development of well-rounded students through equal exposure to Arts and Sciences, together with a range of electives. The Years 11 to 12 curriculum is comprehensive and carefully designed to balance a Steiner approach with the contemporary requirements of the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies. Orana's Year 12 results consistently see the School placed as one of the top Independent Schools in Canberra.

At the completion of Year 12, students gain an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) if they have chosen that option which can be used in enrolment applications to any tertiary educational institution in Australia. In addition, all students who complete an approved educational program in Years 11 and 12 receive an ACT Senior Secondary Record of Achievement. Students may also choose to pursue an Australian School Based Apprenticeship (ASBA) as part of their Years 11 and 12 package.

### Year 12 Project

As a Steiner school, we strive to assist the students to become self-motivated and to awaken their interest in the world. One way of doing this is by allowing them to work throughout the year in an area of study of their own choosing — an area which excites and interests them.

This becomes the Year 12 Project, where the student is responsible for the content and method of inquiry and is also connected to the content for a longer time. Students present their project to the School community in both written and oral form, complemented by a visual display at the end of the year.

### Careers Service

The Orana Careers Service addresses the needs of our Years 10-12 students during their transitional periods: Year 10 to Senior College and Year 12 to post-secondary options. The service aims to nurture and develop the career-building skills of our Senior students, while providing individualised support and guidance in achieving career pathway goals.

# Co-Curricular

**Orana provides an exciting and wide range of activities and opportunities for students to develop new skills and expand their interests. Our Co-curricular Programs aim to develop the students' creative and flexible thinking, emotional strength, personal integrity and eagerness to engage in life.**

Our ultimate aim is to support and lead students out of themselves and into the modern world by developing interests, discernment, critical thinking and sound judgement.

## Community Service

Students in Years 10 to 12 take part in a Community Service Program aimed at developing a sense of belonging, a sense of responsibility for others, and a feeling of reverence for the world. This is achieved through a partnership-based project with a range of community organisations. Students choose which school-based or broader community group they would like to work with, define a project and deliver an outcome.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

This global Award is a leading youth development program aimed at empowering all young people to explore their full potential, and find their purpose, passion and place in the world, regardless of their location or circumstance. Students from Years 9 to 12 are invited to join the Orana Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

To achieve an Award, each young person must learn a skill, improve their physical wellbeing, volunteer in their community and experience a team adventure in a new environment. Students can choose between three different levels of Bronze, Silver and Gold, each progressively more challenging. Achieving an Award recognises individual goal setting and self-improvement through persistence and achievement.

## Art and Design

Orana invites students to engage their head, heart and hands as they approach and understand Art and Design technologies in the classroom. Using traditional and contemporary methods of constructing designed and artistic forms, students are exposed to complex and diverse methods of making and performing, providing a truly holistic education.

## Music

In Steiner education, music is linked to the developmental level of the student and forms a vital part of Orana's curriculum. As they progress through Primary School to High School, Class Teachers and specialists guide each child's musical appreciation and instrumental skill development. Beginning with recorders and classroom percussion, students can progress to full ensemble, orchestral and choral experience and performance.

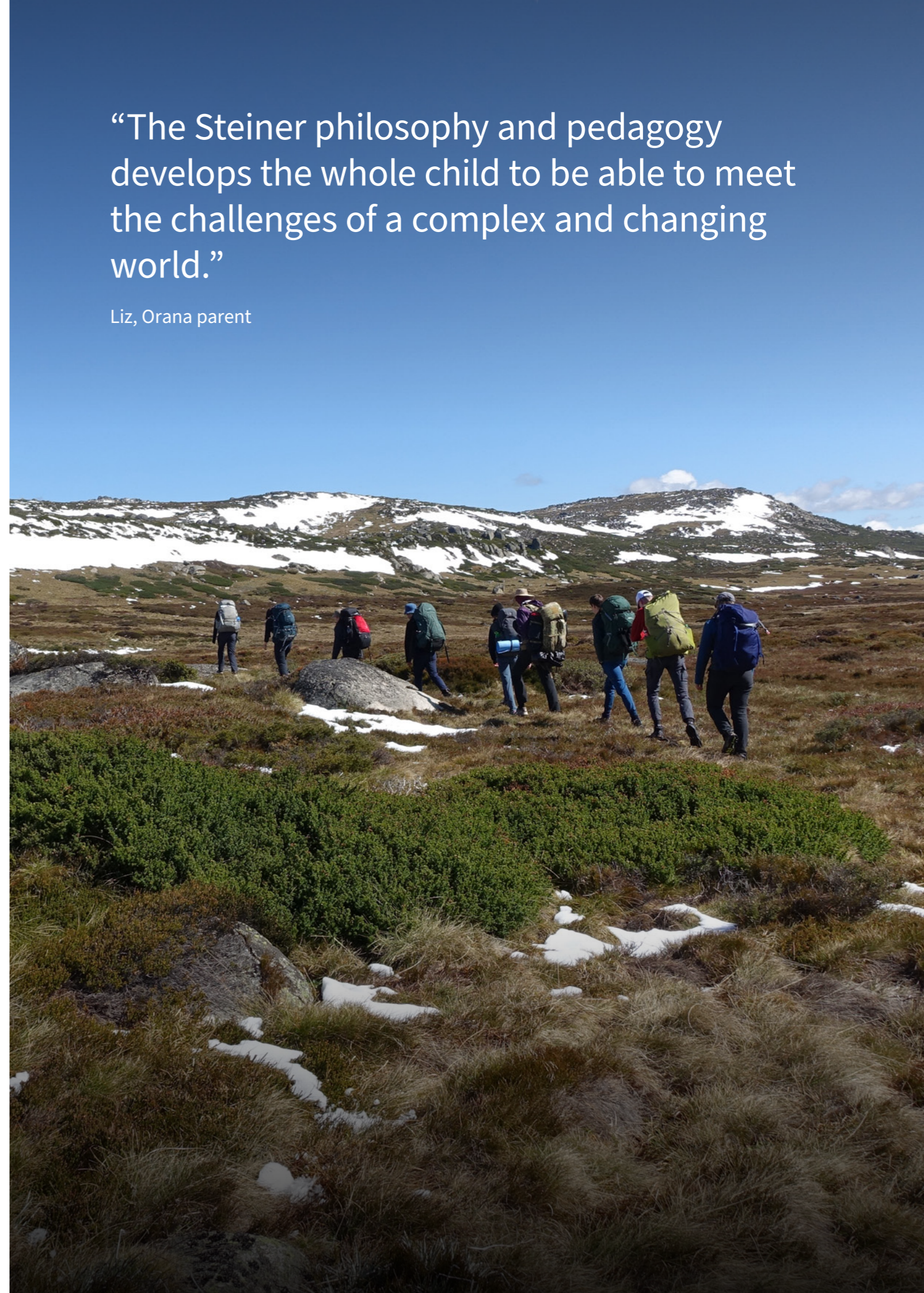
## Sport

The Orana Steiner School Sport Programs offer students the opportunity to participate in new experiences developing habits for lifelong physical activity. Regular activity can improve student engagement, concentration, behaviour and physical health, as well as academic performance. Students learn to recognise strengths and limitations, plan tactics and strategies, evaluate and make informed decisions to improve.

Our specialised programs provide students with opportunities to develop their physical and mental strengths in a range of activities as they work collectively to achieve as a team. Sport also offers students many areas to step into leadership roles and take on additional responsibility.

“The Steiner philosophy and pedagogy develops the whole child to be able to meet the challenges of a complex and changing world.”

Liz, Orana parent



# Enrol in an Education That Inspires Life-long Learning

## Book a Tour

We invite you to attend a tour of our beautiful campus, meet our passionate team, and discover how Orana Steiner School students experience an immersive education that inspires the joy of life-learning.

We are proud to be a distinctly different school because we know every child's learning journey is different. Through our rich blend of academic, artistic and practical experiences, children grow and connect with the people and natural world around them. Orana students become engaged learners, guided towards their full potential in community contribution, academic success and personal achievement.

We look forward to welcoming you to experience our warm and vibrant school and the magnificent community your child will be a part of. Please visit our website to view upcoming tour dates and book via our online form, or email [admissions@oranaschool.com](mailto:admissions@oranaschool.com)

## How to Enrol

The first step in the admissions process is to complete an application form. This is available on our website as an online or printable version. You may also collect a copy from our School Office or request a copy from our Admissions Officer.

### Entry Points

The main entry points for Orana Steiner School are Pre-Preschool, Pre-School and Kindergarten, however we welcome applications for all other year levels.

### Age Requirements

Unlike other ACT schools, our age requirements for school entry are determined by the calendar year (from January to December).

Therefore, the age requirements for the enrolment year are:

- Pre-preschool-children must be turning 4.
- Pre-school children must be turning 5.
- Kindergarten children must be turning 6.
- Class 1 children must be turning 7.

### Enrolment Support

If you have any questions about enrolment, please contact our Admissions Officer:

Phone: 02 6288 4283

Email: [admissions@oranaschool.com](mailto:admissions@oranaschool.com)

Website: [www.oranaschool.com](http://www.oranaschool.com)




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We Learn**




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