

# Waldorf Excellence Program

# Waldorf FAQs

## How are we different to Main Stream?

- Learning community built across the three years and across curriculum areas.
- Students are with the same teacher for English, Science, Humanities, Maths, HPE and Main Lesson.
- Strong three way partnership between parent, teacher and student.
- High expectations in all areas of schooling (e.g. behaviour, commitment to learning and effort)



- At Benowa State High School we follow Steiner's philosophy of the culture of the child. This is a theme or idea that for each specific age, children have different developmental needs.
- In Year 7 we follow the idea of Wonder. This can be seen in the use of artwork and endeavouring to make the curriculum exciting or engaging. There still needs to be a sense of excitement when learning.
- Year 8 is the theme of the Industrial Revolution. This was a period of history where superstition and science lived side by side. This theme is reflected in the way students are encouraged to experiment with new concepts and ideas and apply them in different ways, developing their reasoning skills.
- In Year 9 we follow the idea of ideologies or black and white thinking. At this age students are developing their own moral philosophy. Through debate and class discussion they are encouraged to articulate and express these concepts constructively.



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## What is Main Lesson?

- Students will engage in a depth study of a particular topic across approximately 5 weeks, 3 lessons per week.
- Topics range across the key learning areas
- Content is sometimes integrated into the wider school curriculum and sometimes it is additional, unique topics.
- Knowledge is assessed in multiples forms. Often in a booklet, presentation or creative display.
- Content is guided but students have the opportunity to express their creatively through their presentation.



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## Will students receive homework?

- Yes, homework is a part of our school and the program
- It provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, create patterns of behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom, and involve family members in their learning.
- However, it will always have a purpose. This could include:
  - revision and reflection to consolidate learning
  - applying knowledge and skills in new contexts
  - pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively
  - preparing for forthcoming classroom learning



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How is homework different to assessment?

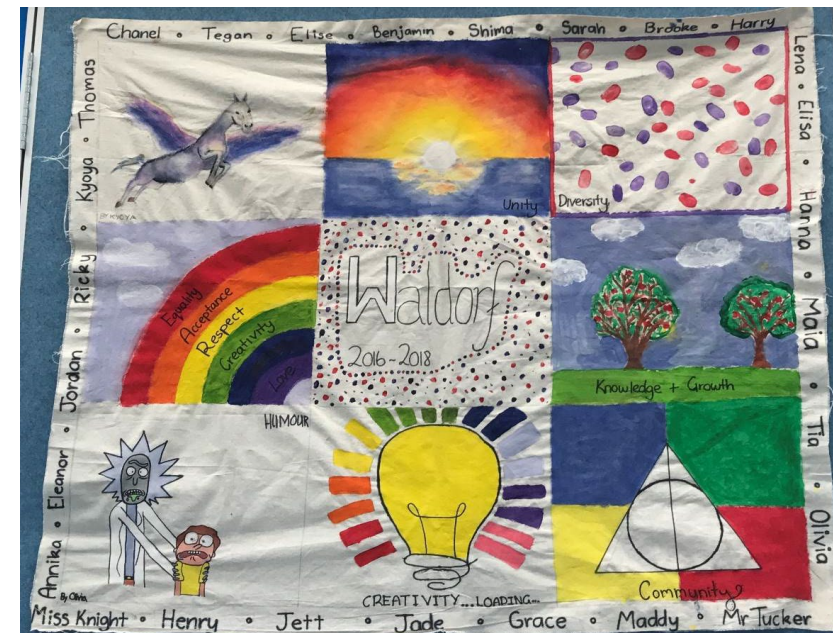
- Homework is activities outside of scheduled assessments and designed to compliment their schoolwork.
- Assessment is scheduled formative or summative pieces where students are graded for their results. Must adhere to the school's assessment policy.
- Time for working on assessments is a combination of in class time and at home.
- Therefore, time management is crucial for all students. To assist with this, I will monitor homework and provide assessment check points for students. To aid with this further, I firmly encourage the use of a student diary to keep track of what needs to be done

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## How can we communicate?

- Formal parent teacher interviews occur twice a year
- School phone contact or email contact
- I will contact via email periodically with any relevant class updates or information.

Additionally, if I have any concerns to discuss I may contact parents individually via email or phone.



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## What resources are used for my child's learning?

### Textbooks as a part of the resource scheme

- Maths
- Science
- Humanities
- English novels or plays
- Digital version are available for some textbooks

### Laptops (BYOD)

- Microsoft suite provided by the school (e.g. MSWord, PowerPoint)
- Email - This is my primary form of receiving drafts and feedback
- Online educational programs
- OneNote – Vital for students to stay up to date
- Turnitin
- Numerous internet sources for both in class and assessment work



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## What resources are used for my child's learning?

### Additional provided resources

- We have a range of art supplies for students to use including coloured pencils and coloured paper to assist to students with their Main Lesson. (Though many students prefer to have their own set of coloured pencils)
- Also a range of paint supplies to use when appropriate.

### BYO resources

- Diary
- Exercise books
- Graphing book
- Calculator (can be purchased from the school)
- Stationary (pens, pencils, white out, eraser, sharpener)
- Ruler, scissors, etc.

Any questions?