



INFORMATION BOOKLET

Basket Range Primary School is a Department for Education school offering two recognised ACARA curriculum: Steiner curriculum and Australian curriculum.

The school, established in 1885 is situated in Peramangk Country in the beautiful rolling Adelaide Hills, amongst eucalypt forests, fruit orchards and local farms, providing a natural and calm learning environment. Thirty minutes from the Adelaide city centre, the school is unzoned & accessible to hills and metro communities who are seeking a nurturing and progressive education. The students delight in the facilities and open spaces in which they can learn, play and explore. Our school forest is a favored outdoor learning space where children make cubbies and discover insects and flora. The students also have a beautiful frog pond which they carefully look after and learn about the life cycles of nature.

The community of Basket Range Primary School includes staff, parents, caregivers, locals and old scholars who are involved and supportive of the school, events and the local area.

CFS, local police, orchard owners, LandCare and local retired professionals are wonderful resources for our students and share their knowledge, wisdom and expertise with our school.

Our community works closely together to create a learning journey that is rich in discovery, nurtures imagination and fosters community spirit.

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THE SCHOOL DAY

Rhythms of the day

Following daily, weekly, and seasonal rhythms is important to the overall development of the child. Our school timetable, daily routines and seasonal celebrations have been developed to provide consistency and rigorous teaching and learning.

We follow the “Head, Heart and Hands” philosophy within our lessons and our daily routine.

The daily routine

School opens at 8.30am

Lessons begin at 8.55 am

Morning (Head - cognition) Morning circle, Main Lesson

Midday (Heart - emotions, connections) Practice Lessons

Afternoon (Hands - activity) Specialist lessons - e.g. Language, Music, P.E.,

Cooking, Garden Science and Forest Play

The school day ends at 3.15pm

The school closes at 3.30pm.

NURTURING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

A strong emphasis at our school is placed on creating a calm and nurturing environment which promotes learning and encourages play.

When you walk into our classrooms you will see the atmosphere of the room complemented visually with natural resources and student work samples that reflect the theme of the current integrated main lesson and season.

All classrooms are screen free and use blackboards with non-allergenic chalk. The seasonal table in each classroom is a teacher and student responsibility and creates a focus on what is happening in the immediate external environment.

The outdoor learning environments, forest space, kitchen garden, playground and nature play areas are used as interactive spaces that connect the students with the environment and natural elements.

We value the importance of nurturing the senses through the natural world. There is an emphasis on the use of basic natural materials: for example, baskets for storage of wooden blocks, pinecones, shells, river stones and sticks. Many materials come from the forest on the school grounds or are sustainably made by members of the school community.

In the early years muslin cloth and cotton materials are used for dress ups, cubbies, story scenes and play. Natural writing materials (crayons, chalk and charcoal, paint) and natural fibers (wool, cotton, felt, hessian, and calico) are also used where possible. A variety of writing tools and other good quality resources are used.

The classroom environment, rhythm of the day and gestures of a familiar sheepskin or small rug provide comfort for children transitioning from home and pre-school in their early years.

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY

At Basket Range Primary School, we wholeheartedly embrace the values of environmental sustainability, community, and our deep connection to the natural world. These values form the heart of our educational experience, enriching the lives of our students in meaningful ways.

Nature as Our Guide:

Nature is an integral part of our learning journey. Surrounded by the beauty of the Adelaide Hills, our students experience the wonder of the outdoors firsthand. They explore, discover, and learn through immersive experiences that foster a lifelong appreciation for the natural world and their role and responsibilities in it.

Fostering a Warm Community:

In our inclusive school community, everyone has a place. Parents, teachers, and students come together to create an environment of support, sharing, and growth. Through collaborative projects and celebrations, we strengthen the bonds that make our school a special place.

Seasonal Celebrations:

Our seasonal festivals invite us to celebrate the beauty of nature's rhythms. Through art, stories, and shared traditions, we connect with the changing seasons and the enchantment they bring. These celebrations weave a sense of magic into our school year. Through these rituals, students develop a sense of belonging, continuity, and reverence for the world around them.

At Basket Range Primary School, our values of sustainability, community, and connection to nature gently guide us. We inspire our students to embrace the world with compassion, curiosity, and a deep respect for the environment. Join us on this journey of learning, growth, and creating a positive impact on the world we share.



PHILOSOPHY & EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

Our school embraces a holistic educational philosophy that draws inspiration from Rudolf Steiner's teachings. At Basket Range Primary School, we believe that education is a journey of self-discovery, creativity, and interconnected learning.

Holistic Development: At the heart of our philosophy is the recognition of each child's unique journey. We nurture the development of not only academic skills but also artistic, practical, and emotional capacities. Our approach fosters well-rounded individuals who are equipped to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Steiner Stream Integration: Basket Range Primary School is proudly approved to offer a Steiner stream, where elements of the Steiner educational philosophy are thoughtfully woven into the fabric of our school community. This stream provides a harmonious blend of Steiner Waldorf principles within the larger context of our primary school curriculum.

Developmental Stages: We honor the natural progression of childhood by allowing children to learn at their own pace without pressure. Our curriculum is tailored to match the developmental stages of our students, ensuring that learning is meaningful, engaging, and aligned with their individual readiness.

Artistic Expression: Art is not just a subject here; it's a way of learning. We believe that creativity is a powerful tool for self-expression and critical thinking. Through painting, music, handwork, and movement, our students engage with their inner worlds and express themselves authentically.

Connection with Nature: The Adelaide Hills provide us with a remarkable backdrop for learning. We encourage our students to forge a deep connection with nature, fostering a sense of stewardship and a lifelong appreciation for the environment.

Experiential Learning: Learning is most effective when it's experienced firsthand. Our classrooms are dynamic spaces where students engage in hands-on activities, experiments, and projects that ignite their curiosity and encourage them to explore the world around them.

Community and Collaboration: We believe in the power of a supportive community. Parents, teachers, and students collaborate to create a nurturing environment where everyone's contributions are valued. Together, we create a space where children feel safe, respected, and inspired to learn.

Individual Growth: Our approach recognizes that each child has their own strengths, challenges, and potential. We celebrate and support individual growth, fostering a sense of self-confidence and a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom.

Inclusivity and Diversity: We embrace diversity in all its forms and strive to create an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and respected. Our school community reflects the rich tapestry of experiences and backgrounds that make us who we are.

Preparation for the Future: Our ultimate goal is to equip our students with the skills, values, and perspectives they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world. By cultivating their innate curiosity, creativity, and sense of purpose, we prepare them to embark on their future journeys with confidence and resilience.

At Basket Range Primary School, we are not just shaping students; we are nurturing lifelong learners, passionate individuals, and stewards of the world around them. We invite you to explore our unique approach to education, experience our vibrant community, and join us in creating a brighter future for your child.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW - STEINER STREAM

At Basket Range Primary School's Steiner stream, our curriculum is thoughtfully designed to nurture the holistic development of our students. Drawing inspiration from Rudolf Steiner's philosophy, we provide a balanced and engaging educational experience that harmoniously integrates academics, arts, practical skills, and social development.

Academics with a Developmental Approach:

Our academic curriculum is tailored to the developmental stages of our students. We recognize that children learn best when their cognitive, emotional, and physical capacities are in harmony. As a result, our subjects are introduced at appropriate stages, ensuring that each child's individual readiness is honored.

Experiential Learning as the Foundation:

Hands-on learning is at the core of our teaching methodology. Concepts are brought to life through real-world experiences, experiments, and interactive activities such as craft. This approach not only deepens understanding but also fosters a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom.

Language Arts:

Language arts encompass more than just reading and writing. Through storytelling, drama, poetry, and literature, we develop strong language skills, encourage imagination, and nurture the power of expression. Language is seen as a tool for both communication and creativity.

Mathematics and Sciences:

Mathematics and sciences are approached through practical application and exploration. From observing natural phenomena in the environment to engaging in hands-on experiments, students develop critical thinking skills and a deep appreciation for the world of numbers and scientific inquiry.

Arts and Creative Expression:

The arts are integral to our curriculum. Drawing, painting, music, and handwork provide avenues for artistic self-expression and cognitive development. Artistic activities also enhance fine motor skills, spatial awareness, and emotional intelligence.

Practical Skills and Handwork:

Handwork is an essential component of our curriculum. Through activities like knitting, sewing, and woodworking, students develop patience, attention to detail, and a sense of accomplishment. Practical skills are seen as an important aspect of a well-rounded education.

Social Development and Life Skills:

Building strong social skills and a sense of community is vital. Cooperative learning, group projects, and collaborative activities foster teamwork, empathy, and effective communication. Additionally, we incorporate life skills that prepare students for responsible citizenship and ethical decision-making.

Cultural and Environmental Studies:

Our curriculum also encompasses cultural studies and environmental education. We explore diverse cultures, traditions, and histories, promoting understanding and global awareness. Nature studies and outdoor experiences foster a deep connection with the environment.

Seasonal Celebrations and Festivals:

Throughout the year, we celebrate seasonal festivals that are integral to Steiner education. These festivals connect students to the rhythm of the natural world and offer opportunities for artistic expression, storytelling, and community bonding.

Assessment and Individual Growth:

Assessment in the Steiner stream goes beyond traditional grades. Teachers provide narrative evaluations that highlight each student's progress, strengths, and areas for growth. Our focus is on nurturing individual development and helping students reach their full potential, not on promoting academic competition with their peers.

In the Steiner stream at Basket Range Primary School, we offer an education that goes beyond textbooks and exams. We provide a learning journey that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and a strong sense of self. Through a curriculum that embraces both the arts and academics, we prepare our students to be well-rounded, curious, and compassionate individuals ready to face the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Read more about how literacy and numeracy is taught through

The Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework ASCF <https://www.steinereducation.edu.au/>

The Australian Curriculum AC <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/parent-information/>

A FOCUS ON THE STEINER EPOCHS & TRADITIONS

EPOCHS - An Epoch is a stage in learning that children pass through. The traditional Steiner epochs mirror the stages in the development of Western Civilisation.		TRADITIONS - At each year level there are several different activities that occur:
RECEPTION	<i>Prep and Class 1 – The world of fairy tales and folk tales</i>	<i>Nature walks, finger knitting, pom poms, felting, craft bag, birthday celebrations</i>
CLASS 1		<i>Making of crayon rolls and recorder bags, class play</i>
CLASS 2	<i>Fables & Legends, Celtic stories</i>	<i>Making of cushions, knitting projects, Maypole, class play, weaving</i>
CLASS 3	<i>Multicultural creation stories, practical activities of farming & building.</i>	<i>Chickens, knitting projects, farming, weaving, school building project, class play, music bags</i>
CLASS 4	<i>Norse Mythology</i>	<i>Shields, Fountain Pens, knitting, class play</i>
CLASS 5	<i>World History & foundations of western society - Ancient Civilizations of Greece, India, and Egypt - transition from myth to history</i>	<i>Embroidered Indian elephants, Greek Olympics, circus skills, class play</i>
CLASS 6	<i>Ancient Rome</i>	<i>Dolls, circus performance, graduation, class play</i>
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS	<i>Birthday celebrations can be held within the prep classrooms. Older students can celebrate their birthday by sharing of cakes and can choose to have a birthday celebration after school under the oak tree or on the courts/playground supervised by parents.</i>	

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

Language

Our unique Language program is currently combining the learning of French with teaching traditional Steiner handcrafts as age appropriate.

Outdoor Education and Movement

Physical education incorporates teaching of traditional fundamental motor skills and elements of Extra Lesson, with a focus on coordination, body awareness, spatial awareness and crossing of midline in the early years.

Cooking and Gardening lessons

As part of our commitment to hands-on learning, outdoor education and sustainability, our Cooking and Gardening program is provided. Students have the chance to plant, dig, harvest, prepare and cook. They begin to develop an understanding of seasonal cycles, biodiversity, tool usage, plant cultivation and food preservation and preparation. Incursions and guest speakers are part of the annual program.

Music

Basket Range Primary School is committed to building the school's musical vision. Our music program aims to be inclusive and to ensure access for all young people to participate in a range of musical activities. We endeavor to provide a wide range of opportunities for children who wish to experience the expressive and creative qualities of learning to play a musical instrument.

The principle aim of the Instrumental Music Program is to build skills and techniques on an instrument, expose students to new and challenging repertoire and provide opportunities to participate in a broad and exciting range of activities such as concerts, fairs, tours, and events. The instrumental music program intends to enable all instrumental students to realize their full musical potential.

The programs curriculum planning considers the individual student confidence, knowledge, skills, understanding and critical/aural awareness. The school has a large range of age appropriate musical instruments which will be learnt in the weekly music lessons.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Media and technology

Our school is proud to be screen free (except for functional screens in the library and front office or individual assistive technology for students who require it for communication).

Ipads, laptops and computers will not be used in the junior years.

Outside school hours teachers will use a variety of media platforms to communicate with families or assess and support individual students.

Tools for learning

In the early years students learn knitting, whittling and working with clay.

In the garden students learn to use a variety of tools to work.

The use of data projectors, calculators and cameras will be used in a mindful way by teaching specific skills and targeting the use of ICT in Class 6. This will assist in preparing students for secondary schooling.

Students also work in the kitchen with a variety of utensils to bake and cook wholesome food.

Multiple age groups

As a small school we have composite classes which reinforce a homelike environment and familial atmosphere within the school. Students socialise and learn within multiple age groups where appropriate such as at morning circle, cooking, gardening, craft, language and other specialty workshops. This allows students to take up leadership and mentorship of other students. Students within younger grades get a glimpse of more advanced work and look forward to what's to come.

Student support

Basket Range Primary school is an inclusive and supportive school and community environment. We celebrate the diversity of all children and believe this is what creates a colourful tapestry of life. It is important to understand that some children require additional help in different aspects of their learning and social interaction within a school environment. We encourage families to be open with their teachers about their children's needs and work together to apply for the specific, individualised support to ensure all students get the care and attention they need. As a small school we do not have a fully dedicated student support department therefore need to pursue appropriate channels to apply for additional staff to be present for high needs children.

COMMUNICATIONS

Class meetings will be held termly. These are a wonderful opportunity to meet the classroom teacher and see your child's work. A school newsletter is produced at the start of each term and a student led newspaper is also shared with families (BRPS News). Parent teacher meetings are held in term 1 and 3. Reports are sent home in term 2 and 4. Whole school memos are emailed weekly.

Parent involvement

As a small community school we recognise the importance of parent contribution and involvement in the school. We recognise each family decides how much time they devote to their children's schooling, but we have found that the families who attend Basket Range Primary School have chosen this style of education because they want to be highly involved in many aspects of their children's learning. This can look different depending on a family's interests, time and skills. Some examples of ways families contribute to our school community are:

- ~ Listening to reading
- ~ Helping with craft
- ~ Working bees
- ~ Class talks about traditions from their family culture
- ~ Gardening
- ~ Cooking
- ~ Helpers on excursions
- ~ Organising social events
- ~ Carpentry projects
- ~ Maintaining facilities around the school
- ~ Organising fundraisers
- ~ Donating to fairs and festivals
- ~ Grant writing
- ~ School council

ANNUAL SCHOOL FEES COVER THE FOLLOWING:

- Singing and musical instrument lessons (Reception- Class 6)

A specialist teacher will teach songs, rhythm and verse to all classrooms on a weekly basis. The classroom teachers also learn the content to build consistency and practice as a whole school.

- Classroom materials

Materials for all classrooms such as pencils, fountain pens, crayons, wool, paints, painting paper, workbooks, class building projects.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS FUNDED BY PARENT PAYMENTS:

- Tri-skills (all classes)
- Year 6 Graduation dinner
- Swimming lessons
- Excursions & various incursions
- Interschool Sport & Greek Olympics

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