



Blue Mountains
Steiner School

2026

ENROLMENT HANDBOOK

Inspiring a love of learning.





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"The heart of the Steiner method is that education is an art – it must speak to the child's experience. To educate the whole child, the heart and the will must be reached, as well as the mind."

RUDOLF STEINER



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We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Dharug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands.

We pay our respect to elders past and present and acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the education of all people on this land.





PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

At Blue Mountains Steiner School (BMSS), we offer an education that nurtures the whole child — intellectually, creatively and practically. Grounded in the educational philosophy of Rudolf Steiner, our approach meets NSW syllabus requirements while offering a learning journey that is purposeful, balanced and deeply human.

Our students are supported to develop clarity of thought, emotional intelligence and practical capability. We encourage expansive thinking, social responsibility and a lifelong love of learning — qualities that prepare young people not only to succeed, but to live with purpose, confidence and joy.

Learning at BMSS takes place in a stunning natural setting, nestled within the Blue Mountains National Park on Dharug/Gundungurra Country. Here, the landscape becomes an extension of the classroom, inspiring curiosity, imagination and a deep respect for the world. We aim to cultivate curiosity as a lifelong quality, supporting children to approach life with openness, confidence and respect for diverse perspectives.

Our educational practice draws on the wisdom of the past, engages wholeheartedly with the present and opens pathways to the future. Within our strong and connected community, every child is known, valued and supported to grow into a capable, compassionate and confident human being.

We warmly invite you to discover our school and the community that makes BMSS truly special.

Martin Buckmaster

PRINCIPAL
BLUE MOUNTAINS STEINER SCHOOL



WHO WE ARE

OUR PURPOSE

At Blue Mountains Steiner School, our purpose is to nurture the unfolding of each child through a balanced, creative and human-centred education.

We believe that learning begins in wonder and grows through curiosity, connection and care. These values guide our mission and vision for every student, family and teacher in our community.

OUR MISSION

Educating the whole child with creativity, purpose and heart.

Our mission is to cultivate intellectual clarity, emotional intelligence and practical capability through a balanced and purposeful curriculum.

We receive each student with warmth, respect and understanding, supporting them to develop a strong sense of self and a deep connection to others and the world around them.

Learning experiences are designed to be sequential, age-appropriate and inspiring, helping each student build the confidence, curiosity and compassion needed for a bright and balanced future.

OUR VISION

Grounded in nature, guided by wisdom, and growing for the future.

“The need for imagination, a sense of truth, and a feeling of responsibility - these are the three forces which are the very nerve of education.” - Rudolf Steiner

Our vision is to nurture a thriving learning community grounded in creativity, sustainability and human connection, where every child is empowered to think independently, feel deeply and act with purpose.

We aspire to create an environment where students flourish academically and socially, and where families are active partners in education. The rhythms of nature and the wisdom of Steiner philosophy guide this shared growth.

Through collaboration, integrity and a commitment to excellence, we aim to serve our students and families as a well-managed, spiritually aware and forward-looking educational organisation.

OUR SCHOOL

OVERVIEW

Blue Mountains Steiner School is a small, vibrant school offering programs from Little Kindy (pre-Kindergarten) to Year 6 within a nurturing, creative and nature-rich environment.

Our curriculum is grounded in Steiner philosophy and aligned with NSW syllabus outcomes, and is delivered by dedicated educators who teach with care, clarity and artistic insight.

FACILITIES

Our campus includes nine buildings nestled among the bushland. Light-filled classrooms, specialist spaces for music and the arts, and a welcoming library create calm and purposeful learning environments.

Outdoor facilities include:

- a large ball court
- a bush “mini-oval”
- an amphitheatre
- natural play areas with water flow and climbing elements
- a Gaga Ball Pit, Giant Swing and breezeway for active play
- an organic produce garden and kitchen garden spaces.

During break times, the playgrounds open fully, creating a joyful, relaxed environment where children can explore, play and build social confidence.



WHY FAMILIES CHOOSE BLUE MOUNTAINS STEINER SCHOOL

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO THRIVE

Families choose Blue Mountains Steiner School for an education that balances academic learning with creativity, wellbeing and a strong sense of belonging. Here, children are supported to grow with confidence, curiosity and joy.

Situated on Dharug and Gundungurra Country, and held within a bushland setting, each day unfolds through a gentle rhythm of learning, play and creative work. Children move between classroom, nature and artistic activity, building a connection to the world around them and a genuine love of learning.

Connection to Country is part of lived experience. Children engage with Dharug language, cultural stories and seasonal rhythms, and learn through respectful relationships with local knowledge holders.

In the early years, education is intentionally unhurried, allowing strong foundations to develop through movement, imagination and play. As children grow, this foundation supports increasing confidence and depth in academic learning, in line with NSW curriculum expectations.

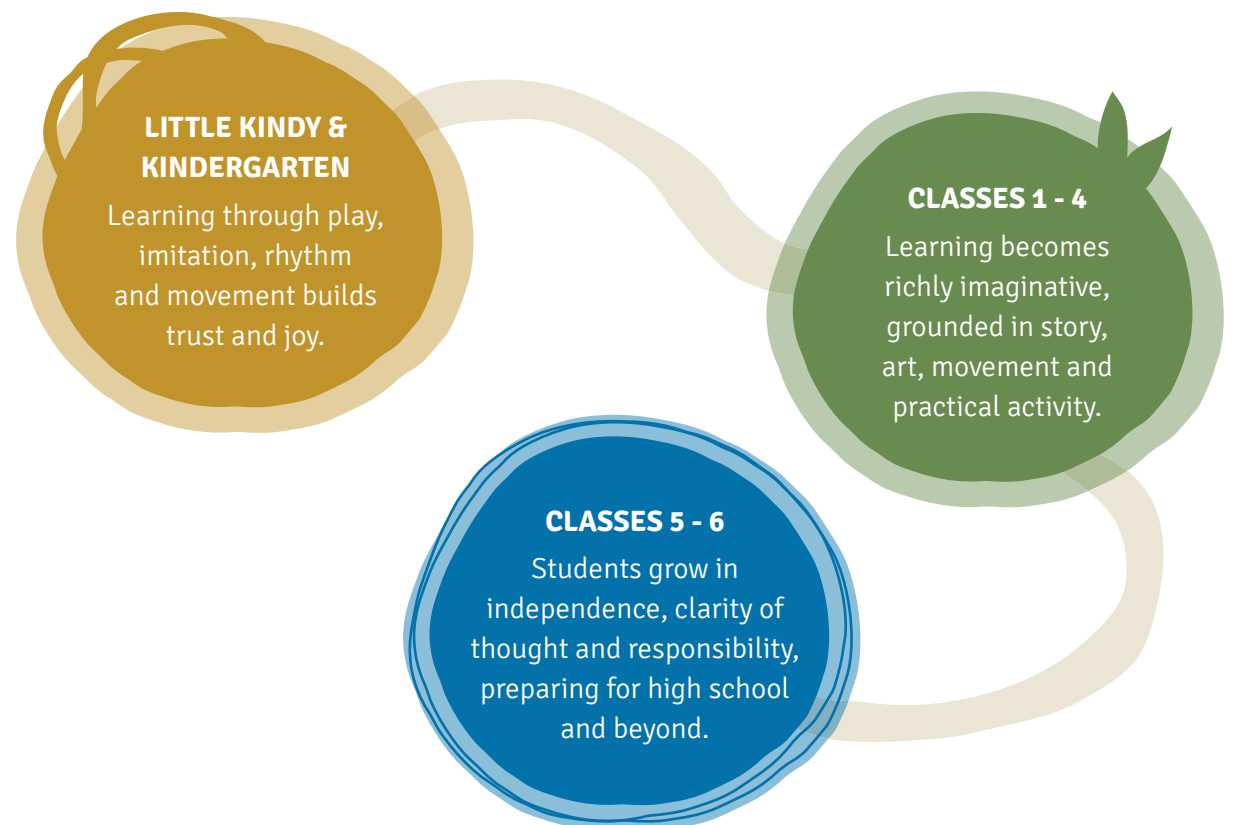
Small classes and skilled, caring teachers ensure each child is truly known and supported. A warm, connected community, thoughtfully designed learning spaces, and opportunities for family involvement all contribute to a rich and meaningful educational journey.



A BLUE MOUNTAINS STEINER EDUCATION

HOW LEARNING UNFOLDS AT BMSS

A Steiner education recognises the distinct developmental phases of childhood. Teaching meets children where they are — imaginative and sensory-rich in the early years, artistic and feeling-based in the middle years, and increasingly independent and thoughtful in upper primary.



THE RHYTHM OF DAILY LIFE

A calm, purposeful rhythm shapes each day. Lessons move between focused academic work, artistic exploration and time in nature. Seasonal activities, festivals and shared experiences connect children to the cycles of the year and to one another.

This balance fosters wellbeing, resilience and joy — qualities that accompany our students throughout life.

OUR VALUES



CARE

For self, others and the natural world.
We nurture kindness, empathy and respect in all that we do.



CONNECTION

Learning and community grow from meaningful relationships, curiosity and belonging.



CAPACITY

We cultivate the confidence, creativity and capability each child needs to meet the world with purpose.



EXCELLENCE

We strive for high standards in teaching and learning, shaped by reflection, collaboration and professional growth.

LIVING OUR VALUES

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE AT BMSS

At BMSS, our approach to wellbeing includes Restorative Practice — a compassionate, relational way of resolving conflict that encourages empathy, responsibility and honest communication.

When challenges arise, students and teachers come together in restorative circles to listen, reflect and rebuild. This process strengthens relationships and deepens trust within our school community.

Every voice matters — learning to listen, reflect and rebuild with care.





EARLY CHILDHOOD



PLAYGROUPS

Our Playgroups welcome children from birth to five years, offering a calm, home-like environment that honours the wonder of early childhood. Each session follows a gentle rhythm of play, song, story and shared activity, supporting connection, imagination and early social development for both children and their caregivers.

LITTLE KINDY

Little Kindy offers a gentle transition into the rhythms of school life for children aged four-turning-five who are preparing to enter our Kindergarten program the following year. Through play, story, craft and time in nature, children build confidence, independence and a sense of belonging within the school community.

KINDERGARTEN

Our mixed-age Kindergarten offers a gentle transition to primary school. Learning unfolds through imaginative play, purposeful activity and rich sensory experiences. Children engage in painting, sewing, beeswax modelling, baking, gardening, storytelling, singing and regular bushwalks.

Foundational literacy and numeracy are woven naturally into daily rhythms through movement, song and practical experience. Older and younger children learn from one another, building empathy, confidence and a deep sense of belonging.



PRIMARY SCHOOL (CLASSES 1–6)

A journey of imagination, capability and connection — grounded in nature and guided by wisdom.

At Blue Mountains Steiner School, the primary years are a time of growing capability and deepening curiosity. As children move from the wonder of early childhood toward increasing independence, learning becomes rich with imagination, purpose and connection. Our primary program supports every child to think clearly, feel deeply and act with confidence — building strong foundations for academic learning, creativity and social responsibility.

COMPOSITE CLASSES AND THE CLASS TEACHER MODEL

Our Primary School is organised into composite classes: Class 1/2, Class 3/4 and Class 5/6. Students stay with the same class teacher for a two-year cycle whenever possible, building warm, stable relationships that support security, belonging and continuity of learning.

With small class sizes, each child is known, valued and supported as an individual, while learning to collaborate, listen and contribute within a diverse group.

A BALANCED AND RHYTHMIC DAY

Each morning begins with the Main Lesson — a three-to-four-week block where students explore a central topic through story, movement, art and hands-on experience. This immersive approach helps concepts take root in meaningful and memorable ways.

The rest of the day unfolds through purposeful blocks of artistic, practical and outdoor learning. While the daily rhythm includes key anchors — morning lesson, recess, mid-morning, lunch and afternoon sessions — our timetable remains flexible, supporting natural engagement, focused learning and a calm school environment.

LEARNING IN NATURE

Nature is a living classroom at BMSS. Our bushland campus, nestled within the World Heritage Area of the Blue Mountains, offers waterfalls, eucalypt forests and winding bush trails that inspire daily learning. Classes spend frequent time outdoors — often every day — with weekly bushwalks that cultivate resilience, curiosity and a deep relationship with the natural world.

As a school on Dharug/Gundungurra Country, we learn with Dharug storytellers and knowledge-holders who guide students in understanding language, culture and Country. These experiences foster respect, responsibility and a sense of belonging.

OUR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

The environment is often described as the “third teacher” in Steiner education. Our school environment is a defining part of the learning experience. Thoughtfully designed with organic architecture, our classrooms feature large windows that fill the spaces with natural light and open onto the surrounding bushland. Rather than rigid lines and right angles, the buildings embrace gentle curves, sloping ceilings and flowing spaces, creating a sense of calm and movement. Natural, sustainable and often hand-crafted materials bring warmth, softness and a quiet connection to the living world. This distinctive setting is not only beautiful - it plays a vital role in supporting children to feel calm, connected and ready to learn.

LITERACY, NUMERACY AND THE STEINER APPROACH

Our Primary curriculum integrates the NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) syllabus with Steiner’s developmental insights. Learning unfolds in a carefully sequenced way that respects each child’s stage of growth.

- Literacy develops through story, rhythm, poetry and artistic expression, with recitation supporting speech development and rich language experiences.
- Numeracy grows through practical exploration, mental maths, movement, rhythm and music, with concrete experiences strengthening conceptual understanding.

Teachers observe each child closely and meet them where they are. Assessment is relational and ongoing, grounded in genuine engagement with learning. NAPLAN is offered as an opt-in assessment, supporting families wishing to participate.

SPECIALIST & CLASSROOM LEARNING

A rich and balanced program supports each child’s development through both specialist subjects and classroom-based learning.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS
(taught by specialist teachers)

MUSIC
All students learn violin with our highly skilled and much-loved teacher, supporting confidence, skill development and joy in music-making.

EURHYTHMY (CLASSES 1–4)
A unique movement art that brings music, language and geometry into physical expression.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND GARDENING
Bushcraft, nature study and gardening foster ecological understanding and care for the environment.

PDHPE
Children enjoy daily movement through games, sport and outdoor play in our natural surroundings, building skills as they grow.

LANGUAGE
Students learn additional languages, building cultural awareness and communication skills.

CLASSROOM LEARNING
(woven throughout the curriculum)

HANDCRAFT AND VISUAL ARTS
Children learn to knit, sew, weave and create with natural materials, build fine motor skills and creative confidence.

DRAMA AND CLASS PLAYS
Storytelling, recitation and performance nurture imagination, memory, expression and collaboration.

DHARUG LANGUAGE
Students engage with the local Indigenous language, deepening connection to culture and Country.

MINIMAL SCREENS
Technology is introduced gradually, meeting NESA requirements while supporting healthy development.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Relationships are central to learning at BMSS. Class teachers cultivate warm, respectful communities where children feel secure and valued. Social and emotional learning is supported through daily routines and our Restorative Practice approach, which encourages empathy, honesty, accountability and understanding.

Students learn to navigate challenges, connect with others and contribute positively to their class and school community.

SEASONAL FESTIVALS AND COMMUNITY LIFE

The cycle of the year is celebrated through seasonal festivals, class plays, craft, gardening, music and whole-school gatherings. These shared experiences build community, enliven learning and strengthen each child's sense of belonging.

PREPARING FOR LIFE BEYOND BMSS

By the end of Class 6, students leave BMSS as confident, capable and resilient young people, ready to step into high school with curiosity, independence and integrity. Our aim is for every child to develop the inner strength and initiative needed to navigate the world with purpose — echoing Rudolf Steiner's vision:

"Our highest endeavour must be to develop free individuals who are able out of their own initiative to impart purpose and direction to their lives."

— Rudolf Steiner





SCHOOL LIFE & ENROLMENT

TERM DATES

BMSS follows the NSW school term calendar, with terms beginning and ending on Wednesdays. Term 4 typically finishes earlier. Current term dates are published on our website and shared with families each year.

SCHOOL HOURS

Preschool: 8.45 am – 3.00 pm
Kindergarten – Class 6: 9:00am – 3.00 pm
Supervision begins at 8.30 am.

OFFICE HOURS

8.30 am – 3.30 pm, Monday to Friday.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Regular attendance supports learning, wellbeing and a healthy daily rhythm.
Please notify the office if your child is absent. Arriving on time each morning supports a calm start to the day.

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

Teachers are available for brief conversations after school and for scheduled meetings at other times. Morning drop-off is kept calm and focused for the children. Important messages can be directed to the office or emailed.

WHAT TO BRING

- wide-brimmed hat
- healthy, unpackaged food
- filled water bottle
- practical clothing suitable for outdoor play
- any class-specific items (e.g., violin, library bag)

Please note: Personal toys, trading cards, mobile phones and digital devices are not permitted.

FOOD GUIDELINES

We encourage wholesome, nutritious food and minimal packaging. Please avoid highly processed snacks and foods containing nuts.

CLOTHING AND SUN SAFETY

The school has no formal uniform. Children are encouraged to wear plain, brightly coloured clothing, ideally made from natural fibres, without writing, logos or images.

Colourful, durable and affordable BMSS t-shirts are available from the office, along with hand-dyed wide-brimmed and legionnaire hats.

TECHNOLOGY AND SCREENS

BMSS maintains a low-tech environment.

Screen use is introduced gradually from Class 5 only, as required by the curriculum (including learning how to touch type). Families are encouraged to minimise screen time on school nights.

ILLNESS AND MEDICATION

Children should stay home if unwell. Medication can only be administered with written authorisation and must be delivered to the office.

TRANSPORT AND DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

Drop-off begins at 8.30 am. Pick-up from 3:00 pm, either from classroom or designated pick-up point at the top of the driveway, near the Bus Bay. We run a bus service to Lapstone and there is a public bus that picks up/drops off in Katoomba.

Please notify the office if someone else is collecting your child.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

BMSS runs a Before and After School Care program. Please contact the Office for more details.

TRANSITION INTO KINDERGARTEN

We offer orientation visits, meetings between families and teachers, and invitations to community events to help children feel secure and connected before beginning their school journey.



ENROLMENT

HOW TO ENROL

To support thoughtful class planning and smooth transitions, Kindergarten applications are required by 31 May in the year prior to starting school. As places are limited and classes often fill well in advance, we encourage families to apply early. Many families begin the enrolment process one to two years ahead.

This timeframe allows for:

- thoughtful placement of each child
- a smooth and meaningful transition into school life
- opportunities for families to meet teachers
- balanced and well-supported classes

Applications received after this date will still be considered; however, places may be limited once classes are filled.

Families are welcome to enquire at any time.

THE ENROLMENT PROCESS

1. Submit an Expression of Interest and receive an Enrolment Pack.
2. Attend a tour of the school.
3. Return the completed Enrolment Application Form.
4. Attend an Enrolment Interview with the class teacher and sometimes a senior staff member (if there is a class place available).
5. Receive written notification of the outcome within 10 working days.
6. Accept an offer by signing the Enrolment Contract and paying the family enrolment fee.

ENROLMENT CRITERIA

BMSS considers:

- alignment with the school's ethos
- sibling or historical family connection
- the contribution the student may make
- previous reports (where applicable)
- the school's ability to meet individual needs
- availability of places
- order of applications received.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

BMSS follows the Disability Standards for Education (2005) and works closely with families to identify reasonable adjustments through a collaborative planning process.

CONTINUITY OF ENROLMENT

Ongoing enrolment depends on adherence to school expectations, positive engagement with learning and prompt payment of fees.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE SCHOOL

One full term's written notice is required prior to withdrawal. One term's fees will be charged in lieu of notice.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENT TIMELINE

Applications should be submitted by 31 May in the year prior to starting school.

This allows us to:

- ensure availability of places
- support a gentle transition into school life
- plan well-balanced classes
- welcome families into the school community early

Applications received after 31 May will still be considered and may be placed on a waitlist.

FEE PAYMENT

Blue Mountains Steiner School has partnered with specialist provider, Edstart, to make managing school fee payments easier. Parents have the option to pay weekly, fortnightly, monthly, termly or annually by selecting the schedule that works best for them.

See the separate insert for the 2026 Fee Schedule.





**Blue Mountains
Steiner School**

PLAY GROUP | EARLY CHILDHOOD | K-6

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