



**KOROWAL
SCHOOL**
PROSPECTUS



KOROWAL SCHOOL

Korowal School is a co-educational, secular, and independent school for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Our school name, *Korowal*, is an Aboriginal word meaning to stand alone, or the strong one. Korowal School is just that. Founded in Leura in 1978, Korowal School was based on a human-centred philosophy, which means we consider that all human beings are of equal worth and capable of reason. We believe that each of us possesses a capacity to solve problems for ourselves in order to flourish.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Dharug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and learn, extending our respect to elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome to Korowal School

At Korowal, creativity and relationships are at the forefront of all that we do. We believe that learning should be an active and engaging process, where students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning and explore their passions. Promoting agency and individuality is part of our DNA as an independent, secular school and we are proud of our reputation for developing confident, caring, and resilient young people for the past 40 years.

Our progressive approach is designed to foster the unique attributes and interests of each student by encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. This is supported by two key programmes, *Oracy* and *Open Dialogue*. Oracy, learning “to talk and through talk”, is designed to support students to communicate through spoken language with confidence and clarity. This ability to express ideas clearly, confidently, and persuasively helps students take an active role in the learning process. This is complemented by Open Dialogue, an approach to wellbeing that places students' voices at the centre (“nothing about us without us”), encouraging open and honest dialogue to support students in partnership with families and health professionals.

We know that students learn best when they feel a sense of belonging and we understand the importance of building positive relationships, both with our students and their families. Our dedicated and experienced teachers work closely with students and families to create a safe and supportive learning environment, where every child can flourish.

I am proud to be a member of Korowal, which is a community characterised by care, openness, and warmth and its commitment to growing even stronger. We are excited to welcome you to our learning community and look forward to supporting you on your educational journey.



Cindy Barnsley
Principal





CURIOSITY

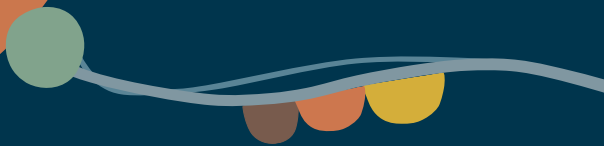
We value a love of learning as a lifetime pursuit towards knowledge and understanding.

KOROWAL



CARE

We value our commitment to respectful relationships and the wellbeing of every individual.



“ ... growth, change, and progress all take patience and hard work. We can add the idea of resiliency into this mix, because struggle and outright failure are integral parts of these processes. ”

—Hochheiser, 2014

VALUES

CHALLENGE

We value challenge that keeps us engaged, and motivated and leads to deep learning.

CREATIVITY

We value exploring the unknown, inventiveness, and taking risks to create new ideas, products, and solutions.

COLLABORATION

We value listening, sharing and working together as equals to ensure our individual and collective success.



Our School Culture

We believe each of us possess a capacity to solve problems for ourselves in order to flourish. We continue to build on these progressive education foundations today, by designing learning that actively involves students in the learning process, specifically through dialogue (learning to talk and through talk). We support and challenge students' thinking in order for them to consider issues and ideas from various perspectives. Korowal's learning design also supports learners to make meaning through their interactions with each other and with the environment and communities they live in, and requires students to take responsibility for their learning and their role within our learning community.

Primary School

Our primary school is small and provides a nurturing and stimulating environment for the development of social, academic and creative learning. From Kindergarten onwards, we maintain an emphasis on quality – our classrooms are bright, welcoming and well equipped; our teachers are professional, caring and committed. We encourage our students to make original, creative connections, turn ideas into actions, and to take risks based on their knowledge of themselves and the world around them.

Creating a safe environment for our youngest students to experience positive, enriching learning outcomes is central to our educational vision at Korowal School. These early school experiences are the first opportunity we have to instil a belief in the value of education and a joy for learning.

Your child will grow socially and emotionally, learning to develop and extend their communication skills, build their self-confidence, learn to be creative, and develop skills that assist them with reading, writing and mathematics.

Morning Circle

Morning Circle is a distinctive feature of primary education at Korowal, and sets the framework for establishing strong and trusting relationships within the group and between teachers and children. It sets the tone for the classroom and is an effective and lively way of teaching a variety of skills.



Transitions

Children remain with their Kindergarten teacher for the first year. As they move into Years 1 and 2, they retain their class teacher for two years. In Year 3, they have a new teacher who sees the class through to the end of Year 4, and the cycle repeats for Years 5 and 6.

At the end of Year 6, students undertake a Year 7 Orientation Day to encourage an easier transition into High School. They meet the teachers and incoming new students, and are guided through activities to familiarise themselves with the school grounds and each other.



Curriculum

The primary school curriculum aims to develop the students' sense of agency in the world by strengthening their relationship with real world issues, and their ability to have an influence.

The focus for K–2 is on the development of confidence and competence.

Students in Years 3–6 develop robust foundations in all basic skills through their application to projects, problems and rich tasks.

Through an emphasis on oracy-based skills of listening and speaking, as well as concentration and fine motor skill development, Korowal prepares children to become effective and motivated learners. Rhythms and routines are emphasised as a means of settling children into school, learning to balance individual and group needs, establishing trusting, respectful relationships between students and teachers, and as a means of producing quality work.

KEY LEARNING AREAS

Korowal students are taught English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Art, Technology, and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE). The primary school employs specialist teachers for Music, Art, PDHPE, Library, Language (Japanese) and Coding (Years 5 and 6 in Term 3). Learning support teachers and Wellbeing staff are also part of our Primary team.



FOCUS STUDY

Our integrated curriculum is organised around the concept of a 'Focus Study,' linking learning outcomes through an overarching theme or topic, providing meaningful and rich learning experiences.

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“It’s my favourite day every term because we do fun activity after fun activity. The only thing that’s bad is the day is too short.” — Year 3 student

Bush School

Each term, we spend one day outdoors in our beautiful natural school grounds. The much anticipated Bush School days help build emotional and social skills, resilience and connections with the natural world.

Bush School activities provide diverse opportunities for students to enjoy, relax, observe, learn, explain, discuss and create. They vary each term but well-loved activities include campfires, natural crafts, exploring nature, bush regeneration, bush theatre, and of course the lunchtime sausage sizzle!

Special visitors are invited to host Bush School stations depending on their interest area and expertise. Recent guests have included local authors, artists and Aboriginal elders.

Groups are mixed Kindy to Year 6, designed to build friendships across age groups and provide mentoring opportunities.



High School

The transition from primary to high school is a smooth one for Korowal students. If they have been students in our primary school, they will already have friendships with older students. They will already know many of the high school teachers. Students often begin at Korowal in Year 7 after attending other primary schools and they also settle easily due to the small scale of our school and our dedicated mentoring programme.

High school students do not become lost in the crowd because we have approximately 130 students from Years 7–12. Teachers know each student's potential and needs, support their academic and social development, and challenge and support them where appropriate.

Students feel part of a community in which their individuality is respected. A school community that is small enough for teachers to encourage and understand every student is the most conducive environment for study, for academic success and for personal and social development.

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Curriculum

Korowal follows the 7–12 syllabuses developed by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). The curriculum includes the Key Learning Areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Human Society and its Environment, Languages, Technologies, Creative and Performing Arts, and Personal Development, Health, and Physical Education.

Whilst delivering the mandatory requirements of the NESA curriculum, teaching and learning programs at Korowal are designed to be sensitive to the needs of individual children and enhance their cognitive ability, critical thinking, and creativity within an interdisciplinary perspective. Differentiation of the curriculum to meet the individual needs of all students is a distinct feature of learning at Korowal.

Co-Curricular Activities

Years 7–10 students engage in a co-curricular program once each week and choose a new activity each semester. Students can select new activities each semester, which allows for opportunities to make new social connections, learn new skills, and develop their interests and passions. Options can include but are not limited to:

- Chess
- Debating
- Cooking
- STEM, design, 3D printing, and robotics
- Drama
- Music
- Digital Art
- Theatre Sports
- Sustainability and bush regeneration
- Fitness
- Tournament games
- Knitting and crocheting



Senior School Year 11 & 12

A better way to study

Our compressed delivery HSC program offers a flexible alternative that equalises workload across the senior years. Each subject is studied intensively for one year and examined at the end of that year. We offer part time study (up to five years) in a senior college environment. For a full-time student, half of the HSC subjects are studied in Year 11 and exams in those subjects are undertaken at the end of Year 11. The other half is studied in Year 12. We support and inspire students towards their potential and goals. Our program has a consistent record of success across the curriculum.

Because our course is compressed and accelerated, senior secondary students at Korowal must be enrolled by October each year. HSC classes begin during Term 4.

Advantages of the Korowal approach

- The HSC is completed in two manageable cycles, avoiding the stress of sitting for all exams at the end of Year 12.
- This supports student wellbeing and allows a deeper focus on fewer subjects.
- Assessment is more formative or continuous, as it is for university students
- This model allows us to offer a wide variety of subjects



Subject choice

We offer the following subjects:

- English: Standard, Advanced, Extension 1, Extension 2
- Mathematics: Standard, Advanced, Extension 1, Extension 2
- Science: Physics, Chemistry, Biology
- HSIE: Business Studies, Society & Culture, Studies of Religion II, Modern History, History Extension
- Visual Arts
- Music
- Drama
- Design & Technology
- Industrial Technology & Multimedia

Academic Achievement

Scholarships

Korowal School is offering a number of scholarships to students entering Year 7 and Year 10 in 2025 in the following areas:

- Academic
- Community and Leadership
- Creative Arts

Indigenous scholarships are offered in Primary and Secondary School upon application. Learn more [here](#).



Reading Time

We know that promoting a love of reading has a huge impact on learning. Students who read daily perform better academically with increased reading comprehension, verbal fluency and general knowledge for students, impacting learning in every single subject. For this reason, we have dedicated 20 minutes of reading time each day.

Inclusive Education

Korowal School has a learning support team who collaborate to support students (both in class and individually) who are working towards grade level and extending learners who are working beyond grade level.

Learning Services

Course design, teacher relationships, support, HSC results, focus on learning experience over results

Homework Club

The High School Homework Club is held every Thursday 3:30pm–4:30pm. It was implemented to assist students in completing their work. This could be large assessment tasks or more simple weekly work. A teacher is always there to assist students and generally help them complete homework.

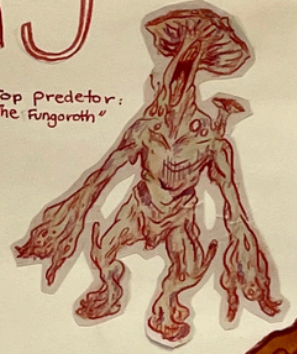


The Moss Backed Lynxstag

On one of Jupiter's many moons, Europa, beneath an icy crust lies an environment dominated by fungi. The atmosphere hangs heavy with damp mist, minerals & fortificer additives. The forest floor, a vibrant patchwork of mosses & fallen foliage hosts an array of fungi in every imaginable shape & colour. Towering mushrooms, their tops resembling canopies, create a labyrithine landscape where pathways wind between caps & stalks. Bioluminescent species twinkle sporadically, casting the only source of light over the moist earth. It's serene & captivating place where fungi quietly rule, creating a mesmerizing & tranquil world.

The Mossbacked Lynxstag possesses a complex array of body systems & chemical compounds tailored to its survival in the forested terrain. Its circulatory system is finely tuned to support its swift movements efficiently distributing oxygen to its elongated limbs through a robust network of arteries & veins. The respiratory system, characterised by enlarged lungs, allows for increased oxygen intake during strenuous activities like leaping & sprinting. The Lynxstag's digestive system is adept at processing a varied diet extracting nutrients from foliage and other forest vegetation. Additionally, its sensory systems are highly developed, the auditory system accentuated by large ears and antennae, enables acute hearing & detection of faint sounds. The creature's olfactory system, facilitated by mossy warts on its body enables chemical compounds for territorial marking & attracting mates. The endocrine system regulates these chemicals, playing a crucial role in the Lynxstag's communication & reproductive behaviours.

Top Predator:
"The Fungoroth"



Diet:



Large ears adapt for acute hearing.

Long whiskers enhances tactile sensing.

Mustard-coloured velvet fur & mossy warts allow for camouflage.

Hooves for protection, support & defence.

Antennae & blunt-spiked antlers serve sensory & communication roles.

Multiple eyes to enhance vision.

Pronounced neck, compact torso, small/sleender tail enhances balance, agility & stability.

Elongated frame aids Lynxstag in forest navigation & leaping over obstacles.

"With genuinely dedicated and supportive teaching the education of my child



Image by Nani Karan

*staff, Korowal granted all my wishes regarding
d.” — Korowal Parent*

Wellbeing

The Korowal Difference

Korowal School staff and teachers work in dynamic ways, facilitating a learning environment which recognises the whole child within their social and cultural environment. Mental health and wellbeing are supported throughout the school in a manner that assists students to thrive, to find their own specific ways of learning about themselves, and engage in their educational path. We encourage all students to have a voice.

Some of the ways we support wellbeing:

- The Learning Hub
- Learning support teachers
- Mindfulness practices
- Trauma-informed practices
- Open Dialogue family engagement
- A network/community approach to support

We believe that it is essential to an individual's personal growth to flourish in connection with other human beings. One of our roles as educators is to assist students who behave in ways that are inappropriate or unacceptable within the context of the school's values. Korowal School does not tolerate bullying in any form. One of our aims is to create a safe and supportive environment in which students, teachers and families feel valued. We are interested in changing these behaviours in such a way that students feel that they belong to our community. What remains important is that unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour is dealt with and change is achieved.

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Dialogic Practices

As we develop Oracy at Korowal we also work with Open Dialogue Principles for student meetings. We engage in Dialogue. Many common elements exist between both practices. Our staff and students are mastering these processes inside the classroom and in Network Meetings, from Kindy to Year 12. Students are learning the skills of talking, listening, sharing, expanding upon ideas, encouraging every voice into the space, refraining from judgement, building upon each other's ideas, and respectful communication.

Oracy

Oracy is a signature way of learning at Korowal. Oracy is the term used to define 'the ability to use the oral skills of speaking and listening' (Professor A Wilkinson, 1965). It places the importance of speaking alongside literacy and numeracy.

There are many reasons for prioritising the teaching of oracy at Korowal.

We are committed to developing capacity in our students so that they are confident participants, capable of engaging in conversation and critical argument, while expressing themselves fluently and cohesively in any situation. The skill to listen and accommodate myriad viewpoints is central to oracy. We want our students to be informed, compassionate and discerning voices as they emerge into the adult world. In our democracy, voices for social justice and ethical practices are essential.

Learning 'to talk' and 'through talk' has never been more important in developing qualities that modern workplaces depend upon.

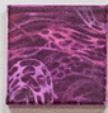
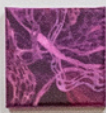
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Open Dialogue

Open Dialogue Network Meetings have become our unique way of working with students, particularly following our whole staff training in 2022. At Korowal we place the student's voice in the centre of their network. In a school context, those participating in the network meeting may include the student, their parent/s, carer/s, teacher/s and others within their network of support as needed. This form aligns with

our inherent values, as maintaining healthy and honest relationships sits at the core of our school's philosophy. Within any

community setting we exist in relationship to one another. When participating in Open Dialogue we experience compassion, equity, respect for all participants, empathy and gratitude for the honesty and commitment to the student. We require resilience to persevere, and a willingness to listen and respond to what is presented at that time in that space. We refrain from judgement and encourage frank and open conversation. It is a powerful experience.



"It's amazing to witness the amount of care teachers have for their students. This workshop is a total reassurance for me and confirms that this is what I'm looking for for my kids."
— Incoming Korowal Parent

Sport

From Kindergarten right through to Year 10, we encourage active participation with the aim of nurturing healthy bodies and healthy minds. Planning for practical PDHPE lessons is guided by the NSW Physical Literacy continuum.

Our curriculum rotates students through a wide variety of sports, dance, fitness programs and physical challenges. Primary School students participate in an intensive learn-to-swim program each year. Students in the upper Primary years and Junior High School have the opportunity to participate in inter-school sporting events as well as in annual events like swimming carnivals, the fun run and the Huff n Puff Gala Day.

High School students undertake a structured series of outdoor adventures in our Outdoor Education Program, with our annual school camps. Primary students regularly take advantage of bushwalking in the Blue Mountains National Park, which is on our doorstep.



BASKETBALL | GAGA BALL | YOGA | ATHLETICS | CRICKET | TENNIS |



Each class, from Year 2 through to Year 12, participates in an annual camp ranging from in-school sleepovers for Year 2 students, to outdoor education adventures for the remainder of primary through to senior years. Korowal students also attend a variety of cultural activities, and have represented the school in sporting events.

We also take teams in both Primary and High School to local inter-school gala days, for sports such as basketball, futsal, cricket and AFL. On all of these occasions, participation and fun are our primary aims and we never select school sports teams in a competitive way. We take pride in our students' positive and enthusiastic representation of our school at these sporting events – win, lose or draw. We encourage good sportsmanship, inclusion, teamwork and respect for the rules of play.

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AFL | HOCKEY | DISTANCE RUNNING | SOCCER | DANCE | CIRCUS



Music & Drama

Cabaret

Students from across the high school participate in this enormous event on the Korowal calendar. Every second year, skills from drama, music, set and costume design, and technical production are brought to the showcase. Students participate in various workshopping activities, keep critical and reflective logbooks, undertake research tasks, and create costume designs, along with watching, discussing and appraising theatrical and cinematic musicals. This work lays the foundation for the development of an original musical theatre piece that is rehearsed in class and showcased within the Korowal Cabaret.



Music

Alongside our whole-school music programme, students from Year 4 onwards have the opportunity to participate in a school band. Early in 2023, we launched a high school band and due to increased interest, started a primary/middle school band in Term 4. Korowal students are always encouraged to try new things and pursue their passions.



Korowal Studios

Korowal Studios offers students the opportunity to learn extra-curricular music classes at Korowal School during and after school hours. We proudly host a number of talented music instructors covering piano, strings, woodwind and percussion.



*“Prior to coming to Korowal, I was always quiet
my voice. Korowal gave me the confidence to c*



*and kept to myself. Attending Korowal, I found
do things I never would have previously done.”*

—Recent Korowal graduate





Facilities & Learning Spaces

- Multi-purpose indoor hall
- Library, including reading room for Primary students
- Meadow
- Mini oval
- Covered outdoor learning area ball court
- Outdoor gym circuit
- Canteen
- Wellbeing Centre
- Eight classrooms in Primary School
- Primary School art studio
- Eleven High School teaching spaces including:
 - Two visual Arts/DT rooms
 - Two science labs
 - Learning Resource Centre
 - Drama room
 - Music rooms
- Pathways students have a common room in which they can study, prepare food, and relax between classes.





KOROWAL SCHOOL

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