

Samford Valley Steiner School

Prospectus



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Welcome



Welcome to Samford Valley Steiner School.

It is a joy to share a glimpse into our beautiful school, a place where childhood is respected, learning is purposeful, and every young person is truly seen.

For nearly four decades, our community has grown with a clear commitment to educating the whole human being: head, heart and hands. Learning here unfolds in rhythm with child and adolescent development, guided by dedicated teachers and enriched by our nature-filled campus.

Whether you are beginning your journey or exploring a new path for your child, I hope this prospectus offers a meaningful insight into who we are and what we value.

We would love to welcome you onto our campus and share more of what makes this community such a special place for children to grow, learn and thrive.

Warmly,
Carly Sheard
Director
Samford Valley Steiner School

Education Reimagined



At Samford Valley Steiner School, we honour the whole child: their curiosity, creativity, intellect and sense of wonder. Our peaceful bushland campus allows children to learn in an environment that supports calm focus, meaningful connection and deep engagement.

Since 1987, we have grown from a small playgroup to Queensland's largest Steiner school, now educating more than 650 students from Kindergarten to Class 12.

In 2024, all students who completed the New Zealand Certificate of Steiner Education (NZCSE), an internationally recognised senior secondary qualification, achieved university entrance, with 88% performing in the top 30% of Queensland school leavers.

We don't just prepare young people for university or work. We prepare them for life. Our graduates step confidently into the world: capable, adaptable, purposeful and grounded in who they are.



Samford Steiner Difference

Families choose Samford Valley Steiner School because the experience here feels grounded, intentional and genuinely child-centred. Our point of difference is not a philosophy alone but the way it lives in classrooms, programs and relationships every day.



- **Deep relationships and small class communities** that ensure every child is known and supported.
- **A developmentally aligned curriculum** that meets students where they are and stretches them thoughtfully.
- **A nationally accredited academic program** integrated with rich arts, movement, craft and practical learning.
- **A flagship Outdoor Education program** spanning more than 100 days from Class 3 to Class 12, building resilience, courage, collaboration and a connection to place.
- **A values-led community culture** with clear expectations and strong teacher-parent partnership.
- **A globally recognised senior pathway** (NZCSE) combined with strong university, TAFE, apprenticeship and vocational outcomes.

This is an education designed for real development, real capability and real human growth.

Steiner Philosophy



Steiner education is founded on a deep understanding of human development and how children think, feel and learn at each stage. With more than 1,200 Steiner schools worldwide, it is one of the most established and research-supported human-centred approaches to education.

What Makes A Samford Steiner Education Distinct:

Continuity Through the Class Teacher Journey

In **primary school**, a dedicated class teacher journeys with the students for several years, building trust and deep understanding.

In **high school**, each year level is supported by two Class Guardians who provide steady guidance, strong relationships and consistent care.

Expert-Led Wellbeing & Therapeutic Support

Weekly Care Group supports belonging and emotional health.

Our Boombana Therapeutic Centre offers movement and various therapies led by qualified specialists.

100+ Days of Outdoor Education

From Kindy to Class 12, learning happens both indoors and outdoors. Award-winning camps from Class 3–12 build teamwork, courage, resilience and practical skills and are integrated with curriculum and developmental stages.

Conscious Technology Use

Screens are purposefully delayed in primary years to support imagination and social development. Technology is introduced thoughtfully in high school.

Music, Drama, Arts & Performance

Creative expression is woven into every year level, building confidence, collaboration, creative thinking and additional core human capabilities that allow our students to thrive wherever life takes them.



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Curriculum and Australian Standards

Samford Valley Steiner School delivers the full Australian Curriculum through the Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework (ASCF), which is formally recognised by ACARA. Students learn the same core content as other Australian schools, taught in a sequence that aligns with child development and supports deeper understanding.

What this means for your child

- A complete academic program across English, Mathematics, Science, HASS, Technologies, The Arts, Health and Languages
- Strong literacy and numeracy foundations built through rhythm, story, movement and explicit teaching
- Academic benchmarks met or exceeded by the end of each key stage
- A calmer, more integrated pathway that strengthens confidence, focus and long-term mastery



How Learning Unfolds



Literacy

Rich oral language, rhythm and storytelling lead into reading, writing and comprehension. Students meet or exceed ACARA Year 6 literacy expectations.

Numeracy

Mathematics begins through movement, rhythm and practical experience before progressing to formal processes. Students meet or exceed ACARA Year 6 mathematics standards.

Science, humanities and technologies

Integrated Main Lessons allow sustained exploration of scientific, historical and cultural themes using writing, drawing, modelling, experimentation and outdoor inquiry.

Arts and movement

Music, art, drama, handwork, craft, movement and outdoor learning are core to our curriculum, supporting creativity, coordination, emotional intelligence and academic growth.

A clear pathway into senior learning

From Class 8 onward, students continue a full academic program that leads to the internationally recognised NZCSE, offering pathways to university, TAFE, apprenticeships and work.

The Samford difference

We meet all national curriculum requirements while teaching in a way that supports deeper engagement, stronger foundations and healthy, confident learners.

Three Stages of Education

Early Childhood

AGE 4-6: DOING

Our play-rich early years program meets children through movement, nature, rhythm, story and imaginative play, building the foundations for later literacy, numeracy and social-emotional growth.

Primary School

CLASS 1-7: FEELING

Students learn through storytelling, movement, art and hands-on experiences while building strong skills in literacy and numeracy. Teacher continuity, where one teacher stays with a class for multiple years, supports secure relationships and healthy learning rhythms.

High School

CLASS 8-12: THINKING

Adolescence brings a powerful shift toward independence, critical thought and identity. Our High School is built to meet this stage with challenge, depth and genuine engagement.

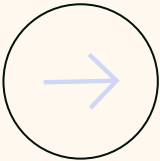
Students learn through:

- Academic rigour delivered through integrated, purposeful lessons.
- Hands-on, real-world experiences in design, craft, science, outdoor education and the arts.
- Specialist mentors and teachers who bring expertise, energy and strong relationships.
- Meaningful projects, including the Senior Research Project, that develop initiative, discipline and direction.
- Carefully paced technology use and digital literacy.

Class 8-12 at Samford nurtures confident, capable young adults who know how to work, think, collaborate and contribute.



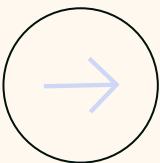
Main Lessons



How our students learn:

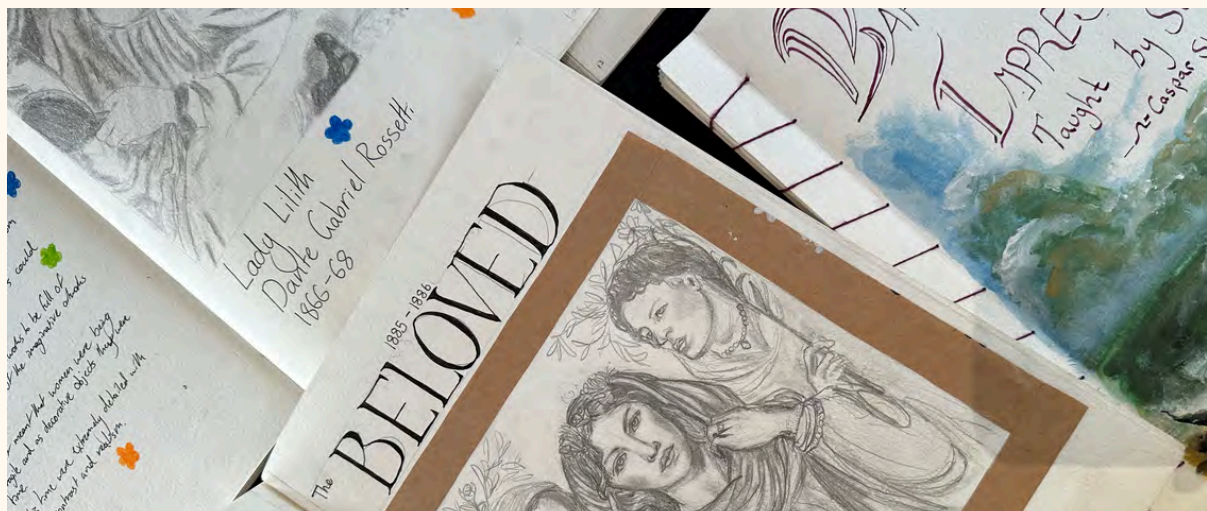
Each morning begins with a two-hour Main Lesson, focusing on a three to four week immersion in a single, rich topic. This approach supports:

- Deep conceptual understanding
- Strong focus and information retention
- Creative and critical thinking
- Cross-disciplinary connections
- Meaningful learning



Main Lesson Books, A Creative Record of Understanding:

As part of this process, students create their own Main Lesson books, handwritten, illustrated and designed by them. These books serve as a living record of their learning and a testament to the depth of engagement the Main Lesson approach fosters. The slow, tactile process of writing, drawing and creating by hand strengthens comprehension, memory and creativity, turning each topic into a deeply personal and embodied learning journey.



Enriching the Whole Child

Specialist Subjects

Why specialist subjects matter:

At Samford Steiner, the “specialist subjects” aren’t extras, they are core to educating the whole child. Through music, craft, languages, movement, gardening, outdoor learning and design, students develop practical skills, creativity, social intelligence and a deep connection with the world around them.



Outdoor Education & Camps:

From Class 3 onward, the outdoor-education program enriches the Main Lessons with camping, bushwalking, environmental studies, survival skills and group collaboration.

Outdoor learning builds resilience, teamwork, self-reliance, environmental awareness and a deep connection to place.

Music:

From early classroom music and singing, through to instrumental lessons, class string ensembles, choir, guitar, percussion, jazz and ukulele ensembles. By high school, every student participates weekly in music.

This rich program helps embed music, rhythm and community in the life of every student.

Craft & Design Technology (Handwork & Hard Craft):

From soft handwork such as knitting, sewing and weaving to hard craft including woodwork, metalwork and joinery, students develop both practical skills and aesthetic sensitivity.

These experiences cultivate patience, care and confidence while building fine-motor skills and strengthening the will.

Specialist Subjects

How it works

While each class has a dedicated “Main Lesson” teacher responsible for the core academic themes, from the earliest years every child engages daily or weekly with specialist-subject teachers. This ensures broad exposure, expert guidance and opportunities to develop talents, interests and life skills beyond traditional academics.



Language:

Students study second languages, German and French, to broaden their cultural and linguistic horizons, deepen their awareness of language rhythms, and enrich their understanding of the human experience beyond the familiar.

Gardening & Outdoor Classrooms:

From kindergarten through to high school, students learn to grow food, tend the earth, compost, observe nature, work with soils, plant propagation, seasons, and sustainability.

This builds environmental awareness, respect for nature, responsibility, practical life skills and an enduring relationship with the land.

Eurythmy, Art & Drama

Eurythmy, visual art and drama all invite students to learn through expression, rhythm and imagination.

Art and drama deepen creativity, confidence and emotional understanding, supporting Steiner education's belief that movement, feeling and thinking develop best when woven together.

Senior Research Projects

A year of depth, challenge and meaningful learning.



What is it?

The Senior Research Project (SRP) is the capstone of Steiner education. It is a year-long, student-led inquiry guided by teachers and industry mentors. Students produce a research paper, a practical component and a presentation to the community and external assessors, who consistently note that the work often exceeds first-year university standards.



What students gain:

- Independent research skills
- Academic and practical rigour
- Confidence in presenting work
- Time management and self-discipline
- Purpose, identity and direction
- Clarity and confidence in post-school pathways



Examples of recent Senior Research Projects include:

- **Healing Through Insight:** A human biology investigation into ACL injury causes and rehabilitation, including interviews and hands-on experience with physiotherapists and surgeons in Germany, leading to insights and preventative training recommendations.
- **Voices for Change:** A documentary exploring artistic activism and social justice, using film to highlight community stories and inspire meaningful conversation.
- **Postnatal Care in Australia:** A research project examining gaps in current postnatal support and proposing holistic improvements to better serve new mothers.
- **Developing Renewable Energy Solutions:** A sustainability engineering project creating a small-scale renewable energy prototype and exploring new approaches to accessible clean energy.

Students explore an extraordinary range of fields through their SRPs, from arts, activism and healthcare to engineering, entrepreneurship, environmental science, finance and beyond. Each project reflects a young person discovering their strengths, passions and future possibilities.

The Samford Steiner Graduate Advantage

Why our graduates thrive in the real world:

Strong intrinsic motivation and love of learning



Excellent creative, ethical and problem-solving thinking



Adaptability and resilience



High emotional intelligence and social capability; strong communication and collaboration skills



Strong sense of purpose and identity



According to the World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs reports, the OECD Learning Compass 2030, and Australian Steiner Graduate Outcome studies (2023), these capabilities are recognised as key predictors of success in an unpredictable and rapidly changing world.

Our Campus

Our facilities include:

- Purpose-built learning spaces with natural light and warm materials.
- Specialist arts, craft, design and performance studios.
- Gardens, compost hubs and sustainable design features.
- Creek access for regular outdoor learning and environmental studies.
- Spaces that support therapeutic, artistic and practical learning from early childhood through to Class 12.

The environment is woven into the rhythm of the school and is a living part of the educational experience.



Our Campus

Samford Valley Steiner School sits on a 20-acre bushland property where nature is part of daily learning, not an occasional add-on.

The campus is intentionally designed to support calm focus, creativity, movement and connection.

Join Our Community



A Place for Curious Minds & Compassionate Hearts

Families who join Samford Valley Steiner School become part of a community that values childhood, partnership and purposeful learning. We work closely with families to support each child's growth, capability and wellbeing.



At Samford children:

- Grow with confidence, authenticity and a strong sense of self.
- Develop academic, creative and practical capability.
- Build resilience, emotional maturity and social intelligence.
- Form healthy relationships with peers and trusted adults.
- Step into adulthood with direction, purpose and readiness.

Contact & Next Steps

Next Steps:

Book a tour on our website:

Experience our campus and classrooms in action, and feel the Samford Steiner difference for yourself

Attend an Information Session:

Learn about our curriculum and pathways

Connect with Our Enrolments Officer:

Discuss your child's learning needs

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