

Annual Report 2023

THE KOORALBYN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



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PRINCIPAL'S FORWARD :

INTRODUCTION :

TKIS is a small school and as such, it has its advantages and disadvantages.

The advantages of being 'small' include ...

- Being able to offer more 'personal' attention to your child's educational needs. With student-to-teacher ratios of around 10:1 - students are not simply names or numbers to us ... They're young men and women with passions and ambitions, with strengths and weaknesses and with a shared goal to 'be the best that they can be'. Since our average class size is around 16 students it's impossible for a child to 'slip through the cracks' or have problems go unnoticed.
- Being able to effectively deal with many of the perceived 'problems' often associated with larger schools like bullying, drugs, gangs, crime, truancy, etc. In a small community like ours, these sorts of problems can't be hidden. As such, they're dealt with immediately.
- We are better placed to be able to build our educational programs around the specific needs of our students.
- We can change and adapt quickly, for example, the success of our recent pivot to *hybrid* classrooms during the COVID-19 lockdowns of 2020 and 2021.

The disadvantages of being 'small' include ...

- We don't have the larger budgets of larger private schools. We don't have the Olympic pools, the massive theatre complexes, the manicured lawns that wealthier schools can boast.
- We have difficulties offering a wide range of team sports ... We barely have enough students to field ONE team in any sport let alone two teams to practice and play against each other. For this reason, we tend to specialise in 'solo sports' like golf, tennis, equestrian, athletics, etc, where we have found some success.
- Though our senior school subject offering is quite impressive for a small school (two x English subjects, three x Maths subjects, four x Sciences, four x Arts subjects as well as Japanese, Legal Studies, P.E. and a number of Applied subjects) we aren't large enough to provide ALL subject offerings in the state curriculum.

To summarise ...

If you're looking for a large, traditional school with a wide range of team sports and vocational education options - then TKIS is probably not going to be suitable. If however, you are looking for a school with high academic standards and expectations in terms of dress, respect and attitude, that will take a 'personal' interest in the education of your child ... where the quality rather than the quantity of options is important ... where your children can develop and flourish in a safe, secure and friendly environment ... where your son or daughter can experience strong foundations in primary school and access specialised Mastery programs in Golf, Athletics, Tennis, Theatre, Music, Digital Design, Dance and Performance or Academic enrichment in high school... then TKIS is certainly worth considering.

FUTURE OUTLOOK :

The immediate objectives of TKIS are to enhance the benefits provided by the school to its students and its community.

Our potential areas for growth are based around the school's focus on academic excellence and its successful range of specialised Mastery Programs including Golf, Athletics, Tennis, Drama, Design, Performance and through private masteries in disciplines like Equestrian and Aviation.

The school's mission over the next three to five years is ...

- to maintain and improve its already fine record in Grade 12 ATAR results
- to continue to focus on academic fundamentals in its primary years and
- to continue to support the amazing achievements gained by our students in sporting and artistic pursuits.

We seek to achieve this by building a strong work ethic and respectful discipline within our school.

SCHOOL PROFILE :

Number of students enrolled :	451 (as at Aug 2023 - 10% Indigenous)
Year Levels Offered :	Prep to Year 12
Coeducational or Single Sex :	Coeducational 51% female 49% male
System :	Independent / Non-religious
Day or Boarding School :	Both Day and Boarding School

CURRICULUM OFFERINGS :

Apart from the core Australian Curriculum subjects in Years P-10 (English, Maths, Science, History and Geography, etc.) the school offers a substantial range of Senior School subjects: English, Essential English, General Maths, Mathematical Methods, Essential Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Psychology, Visual Art, Film TV and New Media, Drama, Design, Physical Education, Legal Studies and Japanese. This range of subjects is being constantly added to each year with several new subjects currently being considered.

SPECIALISED CURRICULUM OFFERINGS :

The school also offers a unique range of specialised programs integrated into our weekly timetable, including ... Athletics Mastery, Golf Mastery, Performance and Arts Masteries (Art, Dance, Drama, Digital Design, Film & TV) as well as Tennis Mastery and an Academic Enrichment program called Specialised University Preparation (SUPr) which includes LOTE studies. Planned additions include a Cooking Mastery (Mastery Chef) and depending upon the status of the Kooralbyn Air Strip and equine facilities, the re-opening of our Aviation Mastery and Equestrian Mastery programs.

SOCIAL CLIMATE :

Being located in a small, rural community, TKIS has the benefit of being able to draw on both a rich multi-cultural background and a small friendly rural community background. The blend of these two give the school its unique character.

As a small Boarding and Day School, TKIS also has the luxury of building a 'family' atmosphere among students and staff.

The school has a very high approval rating among students, staff and parents. In a recent survey of staff, 100% indicated that they believed the behaviour of students at Kooralbyn was 'of a high standard' or better.

THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS :

Since local families qualify for a Bursary Scholarship at TKIS, the involvement of parents in Working Bees and various fund raisers and exhibitions (like our Awards Ceremonies, Book Fairs, etc) is exemplary. The school works hard to be able to offer local families a financially viable access to non-government schooling for which its fees and charges are usually lower than other non-government schools in our catchment area.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ALL TEACHERS :

Of the 42 FTE teaching staff employed at TKIS in August 2023, the breakdown of highest qualifications is as it has been for the last couple of years, namely...

Doctorates	9%
Masters	5%
Bachelors	86%
Diplomas	0%
Certificates	0%

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT :

The total school funds expended on Teacher Professional Development in 2023 included five (5) full timetabled days for all available staff and a large number of staff seconded from classroom duties to attend specialised training and PD activities. In all, 100% of teaching staff were involved to some capacity in Professional Development throughout the year.

With additional funding provided through the **Great Teachers: Great Results** program the school has implemented the *Australian Teacher Performance & Development Framework* which includes...

1. **Australian Curriculum Implementation:** Ensuring staff are kept up-to-date with the latest developments in syllabus and curriculum changes.
2. **Professional Development Program:** The school is proposing in 2023-24 to establish a 'Teaching School' model where all staff are encouraged/required to participate in ongoing life-long learning, funded where possible, by the school. This proposal would allow for teachers and staff to allocate a significant percentage (3-10%) of their onsite contact time, to their further studies.

AVERAGE STAFF ATTENDANCE :

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders, the Staff Attendance Rate for 2023 was 90% which has remained approximately consistent since 2014.

PROPORTION OF STAFF RETAINED :

The proportion of staff that were retained in January from the previous December was 84% which is a little lower than it has been for the last few years due to mandatory public health requirements.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE :

The attendance rate of students at TKIS in 2023 was again 87% with each year level achieving within +/- 3% of that average. Though non-attendance is not normally a problem at TKIS, parents/carers are contacted each morning to ensure their child's absence is reported and verified. Attendance of Indigenous students was slightly higher at 88% which was consistent with the previous year.

KEY OUTCOMES :

NAPLAN RESULTS 2023 :

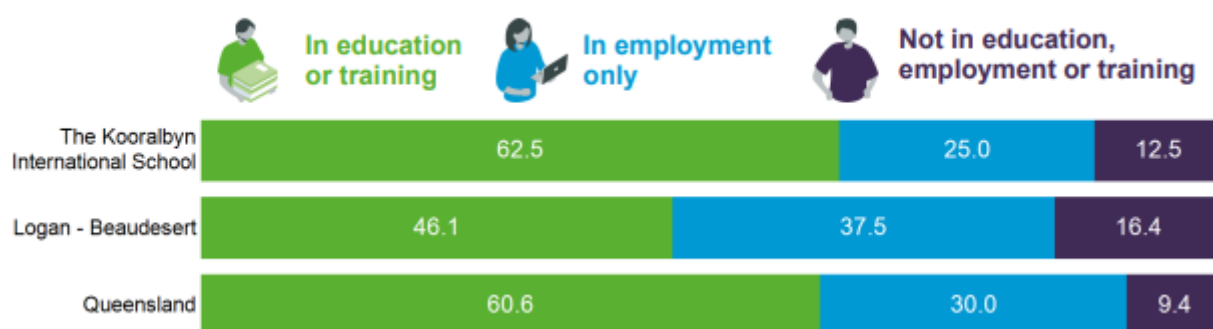
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Please refer to the school's NAPLAN results that are published online by ACARA via the following address:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/48013/naplan/results>

YEAR 12 NEXT STEP OUTCOMES for 2023 :

How does your school compare?



TKIS Graduates in 2021 were 3.1% more likely to continue on with their post-high-school education compared to all students in the state. (Source: Next Step).

TKIS Graduates in 2021 were 35.6% more likely to continue on with their post-high-school education compared to students in all schools in our Logan/Beaudesert catchment area. (Source: Next Step).

Official results for our graduating class of 2023 is available online...

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/48013/seniorsecondary>