



THE
NATURE
SCHOOL



2021/22
Prospectus

Overview

The Nature School (TNS) is a leading progressive independent school with a focus on nature.

Students at TNS are scientific thinkers, curious questioners, and articulate communicators, capable of affecting change now and in the future. Teachers encourage students to take calculated risks, make mistakes, persist, think laterally, assess situations from different perspectives and work cooperatively. At TNS, inquiry-based learning focuses on scientific exploration through real world experiments and emphasises learning by doing - often outdoors through hands on projects, expeditionary learning, or experiential learning.

At all levels of TNS, nature based education supports the development of social and emotional intelligence and wellbeing.

The natural environment offers children and young people the chance to learn about themselves and the world around them and builds resilience they can use throughout life. TNS views the connection to nature and our environment as important lessons on our collective eco-footprint and respectful custodianship.

TNS is a school for today that ensures we will have a tomorrow.

*A school
for today
that ensures
we will have
a tomorrow.*

Our story so far

The Nature School was established as an Incorporated Association in 2015. Inspired by methods employed in Northern European countries, where children have significantly higher social, emotional and academic outcomes, the pilot program was adapted for an Australian context. What began initially as an 8-week program for children aged 3-5 quickly gained momentum and grew into an Early Years program in 2016. With this Early Years program as a feeder, The Nature School Primary was founded in 2018.

The Primary School opened with 21 students from Kindergarten to Year 2. From these humble beginnings, we now offer a full primary education from Kindergarten to Year 6. It is the intention that in 2023 we will open our first Year 7 class and continue our journey into Secondary education.

At all ages, we take advantage of our stunning Mid North Coast location through immersive learning in the community and natural environment to create authentic, meaningful and engaging learning for students. Nature based education supports children's development in social and emotional intelligence, problem solving and environmental understanding. In a world overloaded with virtual distractions, our students are given time and space engage with the natural world. Nature offers children the chance to learn about themselves and the world around them and builds emotional resilience they can use throughout life.



2015

The Nature School was established as an Incorporated Association in 2015.



2016

The Nature School Early Years program in 2016.



2018

The Nature School Primary was founded in 2018 with 21 students from Kindergarten to Year 2.



2023

In 2023 we will open our first Year 7 class and continue our journey into Secondary education.



2026

The Board is committed to providing Secondary education through to Year 10 in 2026.



THE
NATURE
SCHOOL
Early Years



THE
NATURE
SCHOOL
Primary

1

Early Learning and Play includes a Playgroup for carers and infants aged 0-3, an Early Years program for children 3-5, and Vacation Care for Primary School children 5-12. Our unique Early Learning and Play programs operate completely outdoors and in all types of weather. At TNS Early Years, experienced facilitators lead seasonal, skill-focused programs which cater to each child's needs. Early Years operates from 9am-3pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9am-12pm on Friday. Place-based term programs are designed to focus on whole-child development, and their knowledge of the natural environment around them. **Facilitators encourage children to assess and take risks, building their resilience and capacity as confident learners and critical thinkers.** Small group sizes and low child to adult ratios ensure the safety of children in the bush and allow for meaningful interactions and relationships between children and facilitators.

2

TNS Primary is fully registered and delivers the NSW Syllabus in all key learning areas. At TNS Primary learning is regularly taken beyond the classroom. Our Learning Naturally Framework supports teachers' curriculum development, and conceptual units integrate multiple curriculum areas. Unique to TNS, Adventure Days are fortnightly offsite excursions into natural habitats or the local community in Port Macquarie in conjunction with integrated units of work. **Students are grouped in small classes, with opportunities for multi-age learning and inquiry-based projects.** As students develop skills and expertise through the Primary years they are increasingly capable of posing their own questions to investigate. Teachers at The Nature School Primary encourage students to take risks, make mistakes, persist, assess situations from different perspectives and work cooperatively.



THE
NATURE
SCHOOL
Secondary

3

At TNS Secondary, creativity, problem solving, independent thinking, communication and collaboration will continue to be fostered. Building on the strengths of our Primary years, teachers will extend the Learning Naturally framework to design a robust academic program with an integrated approach to selected subjects. The curriculum model will focus on field study learning and offsite excursions, allowing students to take hands-on learning to new depths. Students and teachers will actively contribute to citizen science projects and conduct their own research. **TNS Secondary students will explore opportunities for social enterprise and consider their role as global citizens.**



Learner Profiles

Everyone at The Nature School is part of our learning community. All staff and students are...



LEARNERS



THINKERS



QUESTIONERS



COMMUNICATORS



ADVENTURERS



INNOVATORS



CHANGE MAKERS

Strategic Focus

PILLAR 1

Flourishing
Children

PILLAR 2

Nurturing
Nature

PILLAR 3

Community
Connections

PILLAR 4

Sustainable
Growth

Join the Adventure

To download a Waitlist Application please visit our website thenatureschool.org.au

Book a tour at TNS Primary or Early Years by contacting **(02) 6581 5392** or primaryadmin@tns.nsw.edu.au

