



*Musica Motuque  
Floreamus*



# Richard Gill School Strategic Plan 2022 - 2026

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*“We teach music because it is unique and good. We teach music so that children can make their own music. We teach music because it acts in a unique way on the heart, mind, soul and spirit of the child, stimulating thought and imagination in very special ways. These are the real reasons for teaching music”*

Richard Gill AO



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello and welcome to the Richard Gill School Strategic Plan for 2022-2026. It is an honour and a privilege to serve as the Foundation Principal at this unique school, where music and movement, physical education, and STEM, form core components of a rich curriculum in a caring and creative environment.

The establishment of our unique school has been completed during the most extraordinary of circumstances no one could have possibly predicted; that which is the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic.

We are proud to have overcome numerous challenges and have now overcome countless hurdles and have now completed our first year of operation in 2021 with a Kindergarten/Year 1 class of 13 inaugural students, and we now look forward to a student population of 25 students in 2022 with much further growth in the years to come.

This level of commitment from local families and the community has been most encouraging and will form a solid base from which the school can build from as the school's personality and vision begins to shine brightly in our region and beyond. There is no doubt that the educational concept of Richard Gill AO is widely envied by educators and creatives across NSW and Australia, and we are beyond proud to provide this wonderful, musically infused educational opportunity to families in Muswellbrook.

I am grateful for the support of our exceptional Board of Directors and inaugural teaching and administrative staff who have played a major role in the school experiencing such early success despite unfavourable social and economic conditions. The Board and I have worked hard to develop this overarching Strategy document which will form the basis of our plans and vision for the school moving forward, a plan and vision which honours the ethos of Richard Gill AO and all which he so passionately advocated throughout his life.

*Musica Motuque Floreamus - Through music and movement let us flourish*

**Chris English – Foundation Principal**



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

Richard Gill School acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country in which the school stands and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Elders both past, present and emerging and acknowledge the Wonnarua and Kamilaroi people as the original custodians of the land on which our school sits.



## OUR VISION

Richard Gill School provides the best possible opportunities for students to reach their full potential in a creative learning environment where teachers and teaching are as highly valued as the students themselves.

## OUR MISSION

Richard Gill School is a school where our children have access to unique social, emotional, and intellectual benefits achieved through music and physical activity as core components embedded within an extensive education program. The provision of music and physical activities by a passionate, dedicated and supported teaching staff will inspire creativity and innovation in our students to enable the lives of children, their families, and communities to develop in vital ways that have enduring life outcomes.

# BACKGROUND

*“Music is fundamental to the human being. It is fundamental and it is abstract. Music works upon the heart and mind and spirit of the child in ways we cannot actually identify. It is felt intensely in every individual and when it is taught properly, and by properly, I mean sequentially. That is, teaching children how to sing, how to read, how to write and how to compose and improvise, we go into the highest aspects of creativity and this translates into other learning. We want to encourage children to learn how to learn and to learn for its own sake. We want to encourage children to become strong individuals and to identify and develop their own creative capacity.”*

**Richard Gill AO**





## WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

*"It is my great hope that our school will be a catalyst for change. We need to demonstrate that all children should be given the same opportunities to succeed at their highest level and that talent will emerge gradually and in varying degrees. We need to allow the children to be children for as long as possible without compromising their learning and without the imposition of endless testing.*

*Schools tend to be designed by adults for other adults and in this sense we are no different. However, if we remain ever vigilant about the education we are providing and to whom we are providing this education, my belief is that we will be able to create a model which can be emulated elsewhere giving children, in the words of Iris Murdoch "the confidence – to walk the path our mind, our educated mind, offers." – **Richard Gill AO, 23 September 2018***

### **Richard Gill School is preparing students for the future in creative and innovative ways:**

- Using daily music and movement as a tool for student growth and engagement, physical education and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as an integrated curriculum) to underpin a comprehensive curriculum that puts the child and community at the centre of decision making.
- Individual Education Plans, supported with small class sizes for all children ensure strong relationships are forged between staff and students, allowing them to feel safe and thrive to reach their full potential.



## OUR VALUES

1. Provide Opportunity
2. Cultivate Excellence
3. High Expectations
4. Nurture Creativity
5. Embody Community

Richard Gill School aims to; **Provide Opportunity** for all students, **Cultivate Excellence** in all we do encouraging students to achieve their potential by setting **High Expectations**. Staff **Nurture Creativity** in all learning activities and strive to **Embody Community**.



# OUR VALUES EXPLAINED



# 1. PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY

## **Richard Gill School provides outstanding diverse educational opportunities to our community through:**

- Delivery of a unique and contextually relevant curriculum combining daily music and movement, daily physical education, and STEM to develop students prepared for the rapidly evolving jobs and careers of the future,
- Provision of Individual Education Plans (IEP's) for all students, commitment to a "low fee paying" model ensuring broad access to learning, and
- Provision of annual scholarships, including those for disadvantaged families, to further broaden access to learning at the school.





## 2. CULTIVATE EXCELLENCE

**Richard Gill School cultivates excellence in all areas of education through:**

- Creating a culture that expects and encourages excellence in all we do,
- Encouraging determination, persistence, and resilience across all learning experiences,
- Learning which is focused on providing individual and personalised learning experiences for each student,
- Teaching staff who are supported to continually grow in their learning and experiences and teaching,
- Encouraging student voice, agency, and leadership.





### 3. HIGH EXPECTATIONS

**Richard Gill School has high expectations of staff and students to ensure we:**

- Continually seek to improve the work of our students and our staff,
- Expect hard work and encourage experiential learning,
- Engender confidence in our students,
- Provide opportunities for students to contribute to their own learning as well as high levels of support to students.

## 4. NURTURE CREATIVITY

### **Richard Gill School develops a creative learning environment where:**

- Creative opportunities will be a feature across all learning experiences,
- Student experimentation and play is encouraged and nurtured,
- Student learning is extended and thinking is challenged,
- Families and the community are actively involved in their child's education,
- Teaching staff will be encouraged and supported to nurture the creativity of their students.





## 5. EMBODY COMMUNITY

### **Richard Gill School embodies community by:**

- Connecting and forming partnerships between students, teachers, parents and carers across the community which we strive to serve,
- Promoting shared learning goals and fostering collaboration within and across the community,
- Increasing learning opportunities that connect within and beyond the broader community,
- Providing opportunities for parents and carers to engage with the design and support for their child's learning.



## BOARD

Kim Williams AM - Chairman  
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Philip Pogson  
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## RICHARD GILL SCHOOL

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