



Grow. Prosper. Flourish



Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship®



Note from Kevin Avison Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship Executive Officer

The Steiner movement continues to be the fastest growing independent education system in the world. The first school was founded in 1919, just after the First World War, but a great deal has happened since then and the far-reaching, child-focussed, broad and balanced curriculum and teaching have evolved along with modern needs.

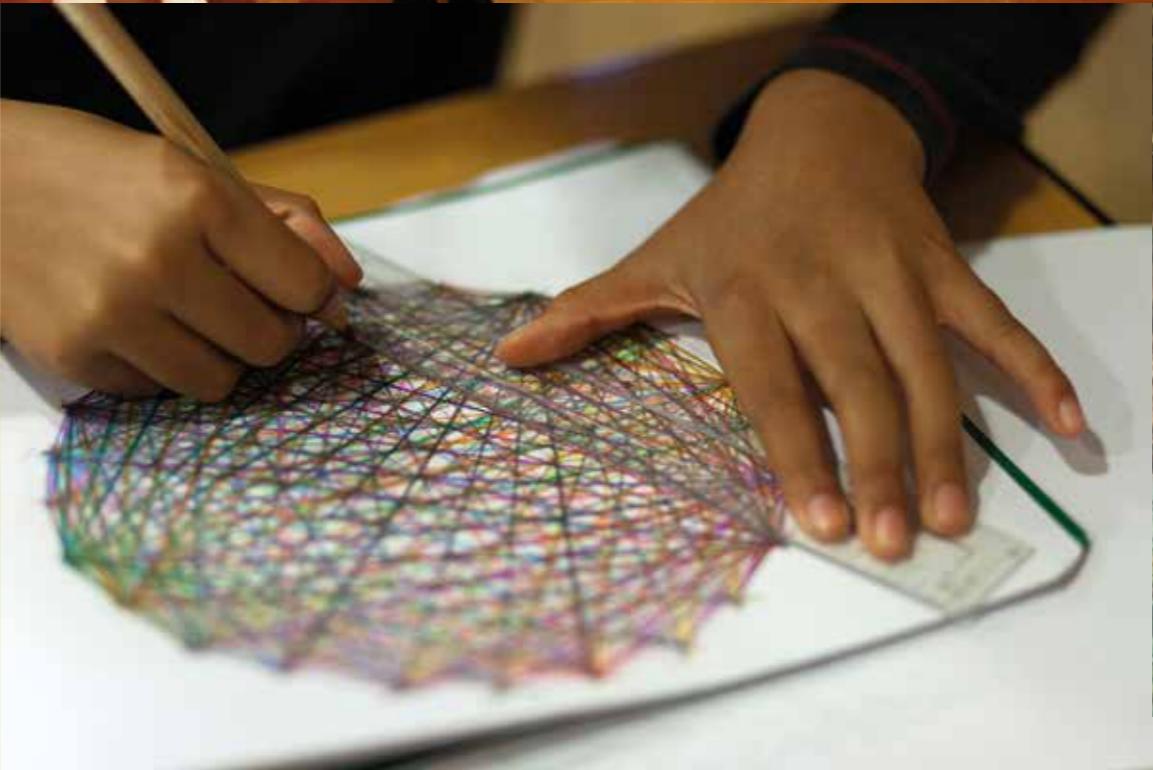
Steiner education aims to support young people in developing lifelong attributes, skills, knowledge, values; and the motivation and interest to apply these to the life of their communities. The schools equip children to grow to be free individuals with purpose and a sense of meaning in their lives. It is our belief that we offer children the tools they need in order to flourish as resourceful, considerate, honest, successful and socially responsible adults.

Please, do come along to visit one of our schools and see first-hand the Steiner Waldorf approach. Our staff, pupils and parents look forward to sharing their experience with you.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Avison".

Kevin Avison



Resourceful. Considerate. Honest



Steiner mission, vision, and values

Our mission is to inspire students through unique methods of learning.

Steiner Waldorf education is based on the work of the Austrian educator, Rudolf Steiner, who recognised children interact with the world and learn in distinctly different ways at different ages.

The Steiner curriculum teaches subjects in ways that correspond to the developmental stage of the child. The Steiner approach follows 95% of countries around the world in delaying formal learning until the age of six, and by the age of 11, students are often academically ahead of their peers.

The use of drawing, painting, music, movement, poetry, modelling and drama enhances the learning experience in all subjects. A high value is placed on play in the early years, imagination in the middle school and creative thinking at secondary level. This encourages a strong sense for the artistic and cultural life and is supported by an aesthetic teaching environment.



Our vision is to prepare students for adult life

Children joining Steiner schools embark on a journey of learning and discovery. Class teachers are trained Waldorf teachers who lead students through the challenges of growing up, developing creative and responsible citizens able to bring purpose and direction to their lives.

The number of Steiner students attending Oxford and Cambridge is well above the national average. Universities favour Steiner school pupils because they're great all-round thinkers and exceedingly good at their own research. Steiner students have gone on to thrive in all areas of science, theatre, journalism, sport, music, and academia.

There are many prominent former Steiner students including: 2013 joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, Thomas Südfeld; designer and creator of the 2012 London Olympic flame, Thomas Heatherwick; footballer Robin van Persie (Netherlands); Secretary General of NATO & former Norwegian PM, Jens Stoltenberg; poet and playwright, Caroline Bird; actors, Sandra Bullock and Jennifer Aniston; and physicist and founder of Bio-Imaging Research, John Fitzallen Moore (USA).

Creative thinking

A blue circular graphic featuring the words "Creative thinking" in a white, cursive font. Below the circle is a white daisy flower with a yellow center.

Our values underpin everything we do

Wellbeing

We recognise our responsibility to nurture the child. We prepare students for life in a culturally diverse society by developing tolerant, articulate, motivated and mature individuals.

Self-discipline

We encourage all children, regardless of ability, to find the joy in learning, to believe in themselves and to be motivated to succeed in their chosen path in life.

Independence

Our priority is to support every child and provide him or her with firm foundations so that they can develop into a free, morally responsible and integrated adult.

Communication

A meaningful relationship is fostered between the child, teacher and class as a whole. Parents are immersed into their child's school life and frequently involved within the school community.

The Steiner approach is tried and tested and is part of state funded, mainstream provision in most European countries. All our schools in the UK are inspected according to national standards. Ofsted has contracted inspection service provision to Department for Education has contracted inspection service provision. These three inspection services include School Inspection Service, which conducts the statutory inspections for SWSF independent schools in England.



Steiner success

11%
TO
OXBRIDGE

90
YEARS

**TOP
FIVE**

9%
ABOVE
NATIONAL
AVERAGE

**TEACHER
OF THE
YEAR**

83% of all year 11 leavers at Elmfield School, Stourbridge obtained at least 5 GCSEs at grades A* - C (national average 59%) and 11% of leavers obtained a place at Oxbridge (national average 0.4%).

Michael Hall School, Sussex is the longest running Steiner school in the English-speaking world and celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2015.

Two former students of York Steiner School received letters from the Department of Education. They had just taken their A' Levels and their marks had put them in the top 5 achievers within the UK.

At Edinburgh Steiner School, 87% of students achieved A-C in the Scottish Higher exams, 9% above the national average.

York Steiner School class 4 teacher, Fiona Dudley, won Silver for 'Teacher of the Year in a Primary School' at the prestigious Pearson Teaching Awards.

Notes from parents and students

Kai Kobayashi Ryan
Age 12, Kildare School, Co Kildare

"I like being in a Steiner school because things aren't too rigid; there's plenty of room for creative thought and personal touches. My favourite subject is Geology, due to all the different types of rocks and the impressive stories of how they were formed."

Phoebe Strang
Age 16, Edinburgh Steiner School, Edinburgh

"Being able to work at our own pace means we have more time to be creative in our lessons. I enjoy being in smaller classes; there is a mutual respect between students and teachers. My favourite subjects are English, Art and Science, and I look forward to studying Philosophy next term."

Elena Sapsford
10-year-old son attends Greenwich Steiner School, London

"The primary years education provides an enriching environment with well-selected and linked topics of study, music, songs, spiritual elements and interaction with nature, which free the child to explore the world and their place in it unfettered by anxiety. The connections made between maths, English, music etc prevent the artificial separation of subjects, and in this way mirror life more closely than 'traditional' education. Reading is taught later than in other systems, but mirrors others countries with better educational outcomes, like Finland. My son learned to read fluently and with pleasure in two years. Overall, it is a system that builds confident, articulate and reflective children who care about others."

Dr Mario Peters
Former parent and alumni of Wynstones School, Stroud

"My three sons attended Wynstones from 1998 to 2013. I chose Steiner education for my three children because I believe it produces highly independent, creative and well-rounded individuals. As a former Steiner student myself, I experienced at first hand the benefits of this kind of education. Many of my own peers from Wynstones are now leading happy and fulfilling lives, mostly running their own businesses, or successfully engaged in a wide range of professions including teaching, academia, the arts, and business."

Sidra Azam
Parent of 5, 7, 9-year-olds, all attending Elmfield School, Stourbridge

"My husband and I became aware of Steiner Education by carrying out some research on the internet about alternative schooling in the West Midlands. I am a fully trained state school teacher and I decided during my training that my children would not be attending a state school. There is too much emphasis on tests and pupils' levels. At Elmfield, parents and teachers are on the same team. Our endeavour is to raise strong, capable, independent children, who become considerate, honest and helpful human beings".

Lars Wilmar
Age 17, Ringwood Waldorf School, Hampshire

"I have been in Steiner education since kindergarten, previously attending schools in the Netherlands and Cambridge. We focus on academic achievement and developing our creativity, I believe this is important for my future whatever career I choose. Once I finish school, I would like to go travelling to gather knowledge and experience the world; then I hope to go to University and possibly study Law."