

Te Ra Waldorf School “Special Character” Guiding Principles (2008)

CURRENT DOCUMENT

Anthroposophy

Rudolf Steiner’s world concept known as anthroposophy and its description of the universe and the human being is the basis of the art of education and of all endeavours at every Waldorf School including Te Ra. The education is Christian in its broadest sense, free of dogma or sectarianism and includes festival observances. Anthroposophy is part of the School ethos but is not taught directly to the children.

Child Development Schooling the Head, Heart, and Hands

The anthroposophical understanding of the child as a being of body, soul and spirit in a gradual process of incarnation is a core principle on which Waldorf education is built.

Within that process of incarnation, we recognise three phases of childhood that shape the way children learn. The themes that underpin these phases are Goodness (0-7 years), Beauty (7-14 years) and Truth (14-21 years). We carry a loving respect for the unique individuality of each child and a recognition of the child as a being of intellect feeling and will. These three soul faculties manifest in different degrees at these different phases of child development and the Waldorf curriculum is designed to address this process.

Waldorf Curriculum

The education from Kindergarten through Primary School is an integrated Journey. The curriculum is comprehensive and holistic - a coordinated whole with each part arising from this distinctive picture of child development in its own particular way. Teachers are striving to educate and develop in a healthy and unhurried manner each of these aspects of the child physical, practical, emotional, artistic, intellectual, moral, social and spiritual. In broad terms the education aims to integrate art science and religion. Within this framework it can be adapted to reflect the unique needs of each class.

Waldorf Teachers

Teachers bring a commitment to work from the anthroposophical worldview and a preparedness to take on their own path of inner personal development. The school promotes a free cultural educational setting in which the teacher unconstrained by political intervention or commercial pressure endeavours to work creatively.

College of Teachers

This group works on the basis of collegial leadership, sharing responsibility for maintaining the special character that is inherent in all aspects of school life.

Waldorf Parents

Positive, active support and participation by parents in the educational process and cultural life of the school is a fundamental element of our "Special Character". To ensure the best outcome for the child's learning, parents are asked to provide a home life that supports and fosters the learning environment of the School and Kindergartens.