



Glasgow Steiner School

52 Lumsden Street, Glasgow, G3 8RH Tel: 0141 334 8855

www.glasgowsteinerschool.org.uk

admin@glasgowsteinerschool.org.uk

Brief notes on aspects of Steiner Waldorf Education

Steiner teachers regard the human being as consisting of body, soul and spirit and the Steiner Waldorf curriculum, based on Rudolf Steiner's insight into human development in the child, supports growth of body and soul and helps the development of new facilities as they emerge.

In principle a class teacher stays with a class through several years, teaching the core subjects and a wide range of others, relating to the children's stage of development, in main lesson blocs of 3-4 weeks duration, for 2 hours each day. Good continuity both in the curriculum and the observation of the individual child's progress is built up, engendering security and self confidence in the children.

The holistic approach means that every lesson should address head, heart and hand in measure of the stage of development of the children. In the pre-school the emphasis is on a healthy development of the physical body through imaginative play, story, song and practical activities, without drawing the child into conscious intellectual learning.

More formal learning, e.g. writing, reading of arithmetic, starts at age 6+ when the children enter class 1, but the approach must be imaginative, speaking to the child's imagination. Art and music flow through the lessons providing a sound basis for the development of the emotional intelligence.

The intellectual element in the curriculum increases in measure with the child's development as adolescence approaches and the children leave the class teacher at age 14 and move into the Upper School* where the approach to learning is from the cognitive aspect and the main lesson blocks and subject lessons are taught by specialists.

The children in the Lower School (Class I to VIII) also meet specialist teachers (in the subject lessons after the morning break) for instance for music, P.E., but in particular for foreign languages. In the Glasgow Steiner School the children learn French and German from age 6 – orally at first for two or three years and through songs, poetry, games gaining a feeling for languages other than their mother tongue. This is an excellent preparation for relating to people in other countries.

*Please note, the Glasgow Steiner School do not currently have an Upper School. However, this is something we hope to develop in the future.