

## **CURRICULUM POLICY**

Our curriculum reflects the developmental theory and philosophy on which it is based, namely an emphasis on the whole development of the child – spiritual, physical, moral and academic. At each stage of development, the curriculum is designed to engage the abilities of the growing child through free creative play and the teaching works with the children's will, through activity and through imitation.

The day follows a regular rhythm of outdoor experiences, morning snack, songs and counting games, lunch, an activity such as food preparation, bread making, painting, craft, modelling, creative play, afternoon snack and story time.

In Steiner Waldorf Kindergartens children benefit from an extended childhood. They have the opportunity to embed basic skills (physical, emotional, social and cognitive) and develop lifelong learning habits that enable them to become enthusiastic, imaginative, resilient, creative and eager to learn students. We follow the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage (with some exemptions granted by the DfE along with all Steiner Waldorf settings) for children up to the age of five.

The content of the child's whole environment is the learning context; the child imitates the people and activities that are in his/her environment. In the kindergarten, experiential learning, discovery through creative play and social interaction with peers and teachers constitute the main education themes. Skills and knowledge are acquired through play, daily activities and social interaction. Children have the opportunity to remain with the same teacher for three years. In the final year (age 5-6) there is an additional curriculum offering special projects to meet the children's growing independence and developing skills. Please see the curriculum framework for more details.

The formal schooling process begins in Class 1 when, age 6 rising 7, reading and writing are introduced.

### Eurythmy

Eurythmy is an art of movement that engages the whole human being. It aims to harmonise the child physical well-being with their feelings or emotions. Regular eurythmy practice lessons help children to become more coordinated, graceful and alert and to be more at ease with themselves. This experience complements other aspects of the curriculum, develops spatial awareness and a capacity to sense the movements of the group as a whole, while also concentrating on their own movement.

Updated August 2021

To be reviewed August 2022