

Head, Heart and Hands

Understanding our children from a Steiner/Waldorf perspective

A series of 4 weekend workshops in Dublin, Spring 2009

The Irish Association for Steiner Education (IASE) with the support of the Irish Steiner Kindergarten Association (ISKA) is delighted to present a new course in Dublin designed specifically for people working with children and young people.

The course will be of interest to parents, teachers, youth workers, care workers, artists, arts practitioners, and anyone involved in the world of childhood. Led by highly experienced Steiner educators and guest contributors, each weekend workshop will focus on a specific theme related to the development of the whole child and will include hands-on practical activity, creative experiences, short lectures and group work.

Workshops take place on Friday evenings (7-9pm) and Saturdays (10am-4pm)

Weekend 1	20 & 21 March	The First Three Years – emerging from wholeness (0–3 years)
Weekend 2	27 & 28 March	Taking Hold of the World – doing good things well (3–7 years)
Weekend 3	9 & 10 May	What is the World Like? – educating the feelings (7–14 years)
Weekend 4	15 & 16 May	The Search for Truth – adolescence to adulthood (14–21 years)

VENUE The first weekend workshop (20 & 21 March) takes place in The Sanctuary, Stanhope Street, Dublin 1 (www.sanctuary.ie), and the subsequent workshops will take place in Airfield Trust, Dundrum (www.airfield.ie).

FEE €500 (waged) €350 (concession) to cover costs for the 4 weekends. This price includes tuition and tea/coffee.

BOOKING Places are limited. Booking will be on a first come, first served basis. For an application form and booking details please email steinerireland@gmail.com.

Biographies of the core tutors

Nell Smyth Nell is a Steiner/Waldorf teacher and has worked in the US and Ireland in both community and formal education settings. Currently she is working with children at Raheen Woods Steiner School, Co Clare and with the Alfa Project (Active Learning for Adolescence) in Co Clare. She has worked with county childcare committees, Limerick Education Centre, Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, and in teacher training. She has extensive experience in theatre and play-work and is a leading international specialist in working with children in breath-work. Nell is the author of *The Breathing Circle* and has devised many plays for children. She is currently writing a book on drama in the Waldorf curriculum.

Pearse O'Shiel Pearse has worked as a class teacher in Ireland's first Steiner school, Raheen Woods, Co Clare, and has over 20 years' experience working with the Irish Steiner Kindergarten Association. He has advised and supported groups in Ireland and elsewhere seeking to establish kindergartens and schools and has lectured extensively on Steiner's educational and other work. Pearse contributes to a wide range of childcare training courses and works as an independent consultant at home and abroad.

BACKGROUND TO THE COURSE

Rudolf Steiner was a modern thinker whose ideas have inspired many initiatives for social, cultural and cultural renewal in the last one hundred years. Here in Ireland there are Steiner Schools and/or Kindergartens in Counties Clare, Kildare, Cork, Kilkenny and Down, and a growing number in Dublin. In these schools the education addresses the physiological, psychological and spiritual needs of the developing child. Art, science and practical skills are integrated into a flexible curriculum that is radically child-centred.

Steiner/Waldorf education nurtures and supports the holistic development of the child. This is reflected both in what is taught and how it is taught. The work of childhood is play and this is fostered through storytelling, seasonal festivals, arts and crafts, puppetry, inner development work, sensory activities, dance and physical activity. The concept of **distinct seven-year cycles** is central to Steiner/Waldorf Education:

Birth to age 7: The focus is on the growth of the physical body, and the process of imitation. Working with the virtue of goodness, learning takes place primarily through the hands or in the physical (or willing) realm.

Ages 7 to 14: The focus is on the strengthening of one's life forces, and the process of imagination. Working with the virtue of beauty, learning takes place primarily through the heart or in the etheric (or feeling) realm.

Ages 14 to 21: The focus is on developing cognitive skills, and the process of inspiration. Working with the virtue of truth, learning takes place primarily through the head or in the astral (or thinking) realm.

Age 21 and up: The focus is now on continuing personal development and transformation, the assertion of one's will through moral responsibility, and the process of intuition. Working with the virtue of wisdom, learning takes place in a cumulative, integrated nature.

Transforming Ireland

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