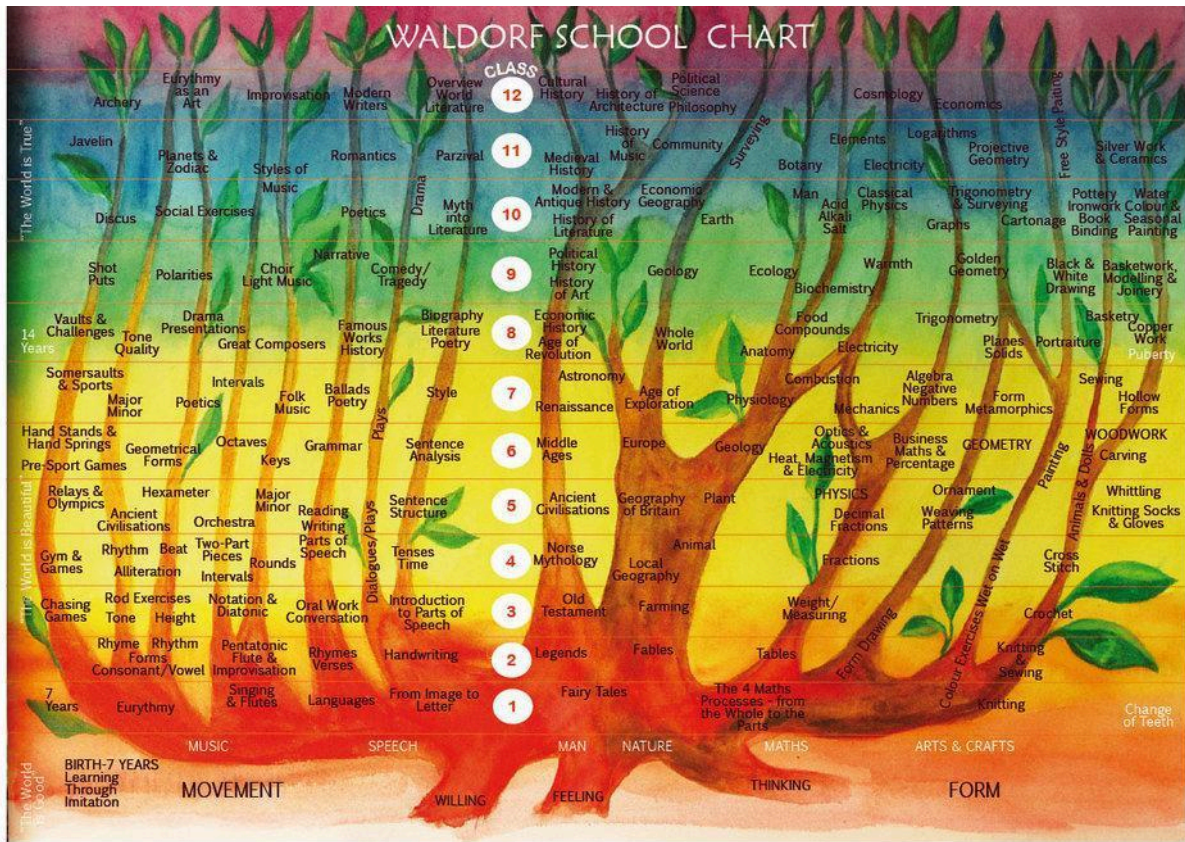


# Education for our Time - 2024/25

## Proven Strategies for Joyful Learning



## Continuing Professional Development & Creative Personal Deepening

Explore the art of teaching and learning through the inspiration of Waldorf education. Experience modern, developmentally based curriculum approaches in creative, innovative ways that can be brought to any educational setting. Also a wonderful introduction for anyone interested in knowing more about Waldorf Education or as a CPD Course for Teachers.

"The need for imagination, a sense of truth and a feeling of responsibility – these are the three forces which are the very nerve of education."

## Rudolf Steiner

## What is Steiner/Waldorf Education?

Waldorf education is a worldwide movement founded in the early 20th century based on the insights, teachings, and principles of education outlined by Rudolf Steiner, a European philosopher, educator and social reformer. Today across the globe, there are about 1000 schools & 2000 early childhood programs in over 60 countries. In Waldorf education, the learning process actively engages and integrates heads, hearts and hands. It is an age appropriate, hands on, intellectually vibrant approach to education. It integrates the arts in all academic disciplines to enhance and enrich learning. Waldorf education aims to inspire lifelong learning in all students and to enable them to fully develop their unique capacities. Teachers in Waldorf schools are dedicated to generating an inner enthusiasm for learning within every child.

## What is the aim of the course?

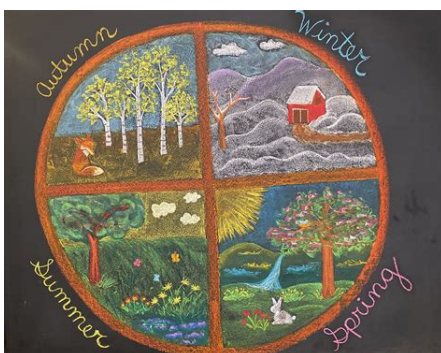
The aim is to illustrate and strengthen understanding and mastery of core aspects of Steiner Waldorf education in deeply practical, observational and experiential ways, using a child development focus and active learning methodology in such a way that participants can be inspired and enabled to bring the fruits of the course into their own learning environments whether in mainstream schools, in Steiner Waldorf settings or in home education.

## What is the course Content?

Out of a child development overview of 0-21yrs, we focus mainly on working with children aged 4-14 years with two of the six weekends exploring the understanding of the human being that underpins the pedagogy. We offer the possibility of additional input on the early years and the older student for people who want that. Key areas of focus include: working rhythmically; literacy and numeracy; the arts, painting, drawing, geometry, drama, movement, storytelling, singing and music; and the integration of curriculum into classroom management and planning. Participants will also develop practical and creative skills for classroom application, including collaboration with colleagues and active listening.

## What does the course involve?

The course runs part time over 6 weekends and is mediated by master teachers and peers and aims to bring a spirit of enjoyment, creativity and confidence to all those participating. Facilitated reflective practice, peer networking, small group mentoring sessions with specialist teachers and group work, bring additional richness and rhythmic practice. A self reflection journal serves as a personal record of the journey through the course, distilling the learning, questioning and research it has inspired.





## Who is the Education for our Time course for?

- Teachers & staff from all early years to secondary settings, whether mainstream, Steiner Waldorf, homeschool or other
- Anyone wishing to know more about Steiner Waldorf Education: individuals, parents, teachers, assistants, support staff, Boards of Management...
- People interested in teaching in or starting a Steiner Waldorf Kindergarten or School & Initiatives who want to deepen the skills and range of their teachers.

## Recognition

The Course is recognised by Lifeways Ireland, Bláthú the Steiner Early Childhood Association and the Irish Waldorf Education Association of which we are a member organisation. Teachers committing to the training have in many cases been supported in doing so by Limerick & Clare and Galway Education and Training Boards.

## Teacher Training

For people who wish to continue, there is the option of two further years of a Steiner Waldorf Teacher Training. The second & third years are a more intensive modular, thematic immersion, which includes tutoring from international experts. Each year offers a series of themed blocks covering: maths/numeracy, literacy, learning support, movement, the class trip, arts, science, drama & playwriting, craft & handwork, painting & drawing, storytelling, music & song, student projects/research, teacher development, school governance, the contemporary child & teaching in the 21st Century.

## Course Directors

**Nell Smyth** Brings over 35 yrs of working as a Steiner teacher in both primary & secondary education, both in Ireland and America. She is the author of many plays for children, a number included in the Irish National Youth Theatre's playshare, and of two books, *The Breathing Circle* and *Drama at the Heart*. She also has an extensive training in Middendorf breathwork and has been involved in the Creative Clusters work in schools and led a large number of Dept of Ed CPD courses.

**Caroline Kelly** - Was one of the founders of the ALFA Project (now Alfa Steiner Secondary School), where she teaches 12- 18 year olds, and is one of the core group of lead teachers. She was formerly the Director of the Waldorf College for 16–19 year olds in the UK.

**Audrey Flynn** - Has a background in Administration, Leadership and Professional Coaching and trained as a Steiner Kindergarten Teacher. She is a founder member of The ALFA Project, (Active Learning For Adolescents), now Alfa Steiner Secondary School. She has previously been the National Coordinator for the Irish Steiner Kindergarten Association.

**Nell Smyth - Caroline Kelly - Audrey Flynn - work collaboratively as:  
SWIM - Steiner Waldorf CPD & Teacher Training**

**Steiner Waldorf inár measc - Steiner Waldorf in our midst**



**SWIM - Steiner Waldorf In our Midst**

# COURSE INFORMATION

**DATES -** 6 Weekends in 2025/26

20th & 21st September 2025

18th & 19th October 2025

15th & 16th November 2025

6th & 7th December 2025

17th & 18th January 2026

7th & 8th February 2026

**TIMES -**

9am-5.30pm Saturday with Supper at 5.45pm and  
9.30am-1pm Sunday.

## LOCATION

**Alfa Steiner Secondary School** campus, Raheen Hill, Tuamgraney, Co Clare. **V94 RW32**



## BOOKING

Contact [swim.cpd.training@gmail.com](mailto:swim.cpd.training@gmail.com) for an application form.

## FEE

€1,700 Course fee includes quality, healthy refreshments, Saturday lunch & Saturday dinner. (Dietary requirements catered for)

Early Bird fee of €1,500 applies for bookings made before 29th August 2025

Previously some schools have paid for their teachers to attend this course.

\* Education for our Time was formerly known as Core Elements of Steiner Education

SWIM-Steiner CPD & Teacher Training, Alfa Steiner Secondary School campus, Tuamgraney, Co Clare.  
[swim.cpd.training@gmail.com](mailto:swim.cpd.training@gmail.com) [www.steinerwaldorfireland.eu](http://www.steinerwaldorfireland.eu)

SWIM is a Social Enterprise and an activity of Ard Aoibhinn Community Initiatives CLG  
Company No: 352829 - Charities Regulatory Authority No: 20047689