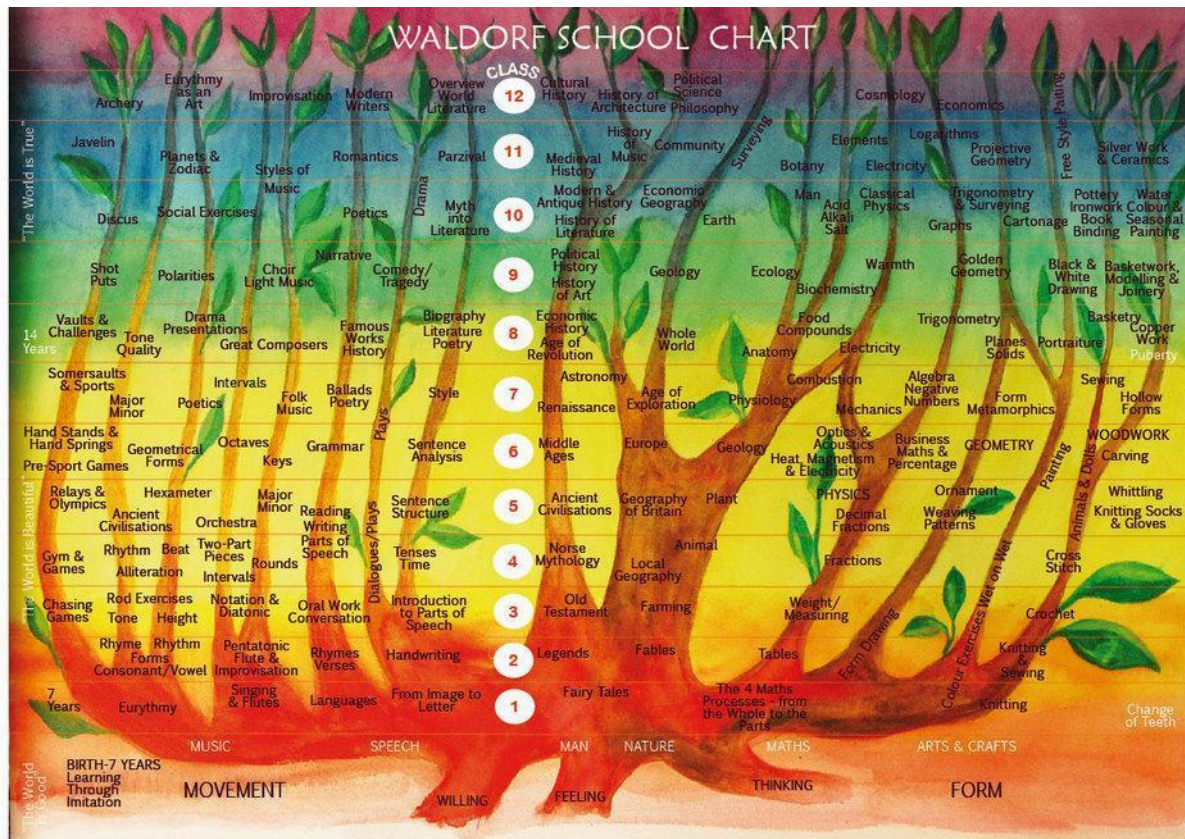


# Education for our Time - 2025/26

## What helps today's child thrive?

### Proven Strategies for Joyful Learning



## Continuing Professional Development & Creative Personal Deepening

Explore how to meet the modern child and their evolving needs through the inspiration of Waldorf education. Experience developmentally based learning approaches that can be brought to any educational setting in creative, innovative ways. This is a wonderful introduction to a tried and tested child centred education and a window into how children learn at different ages and stages.

*"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 the aim of the course?

The course deepens understanding and insight into how children learn and to foster their innate love for learning.

You will develop skills, understanding and confidence to support and nurture every child's unique creativity, intelligence and resilience.

Using a child development focus with practical, observational and experiential approaches, participants will be inspired and enabled to bring the fruits of the course to their own learning environments whether mainstream, SteinerWaldorf or the home

## 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.

Key areas of focus include: working rhythmically; literacy and numeracy; the arts, painting, drawing, geometry, science, drama, movement, storytelling, singing and music. Additional content on early years and second level can be explored in our peer mentoring sessions.

Participants will develop practical and creative skills, which will include their classroom application and the integration of curriculum into classroom management and planning.

Key skills such as active listening will be taught for collaborating effectively with colleagues, parents and children.

## 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 course for?

Anyone who is interested in the educational wellbeing of children.

- Parents, teachers, trainee teachers, school staff, Boards of Management...
- Teachers & education staff from early years to secondary level
- People working in mainstream, Steiner Waldorf, homeschool or other education
- Settings who want to deepen the skills and range of their teachers.
- Anyone wishing to know more about Steiner Waldorf Education
- Individuals considering founding or working in a Steiner Waldorf initiative





## 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 1100 schools & 2000 early childhood programs in over 80 countries; it is the largest independent school movement in the world. In Waldorf education, the learning process actively engages and integrates heads, hearts & 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. It is widely acknowledged that Waldorf education inspires a love for lifelong learning in students, enabling them to fully develop their unique capacities. Teachers in Waldorf schools are dedicated to generating an inner enthusiasm for learning within every child.

## 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 Explorations & Teacher Training**

Steiner Waldorf inár measc - Steiner Waldorf in our midst



**SWIM - Steiner Waldorf In our Midst**

## COURSE INFORMATION

We are holding a **Taster Day** for the course on Saturday 30th August 2025

**Cost** €60 including quality Lunch and refreshments.

**Bonus** - €50 fee reduction for those who go on to do the course.

**To book email** [swim.cpd.training@gmail.com](mailto:swim.cpd.training@gmail.com)

## COURSE DATES -

6 Weekends in 2025/26

20th & 21st September 2025

18th & 19th October 2025

22nd & 23rd November 2025

13th & 14th 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 supper. (Dietary requirements catered for)

**Early Bird fee of €1,500 applies for bookings made before 2nd September 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