

To The Heart Of Steiner Education 2026

2nd/3rd year of the Irish Steiner Teacher Training, Part Time



Can also be done as a course for

Continuing Professional Development, Creative Personal Deepening
by anyone who has completed the introduction course “Core Elements of
Steiner Education”/ “Education for our Time” or similar foundation
course in Steiner Education

*“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.”*

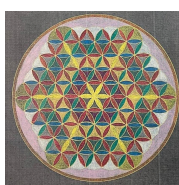
Rudolf Steiner

Course Content

The Teacher Training Course is a part time Progressive Framework in Steiner Pedagogy at Primary level with additional content on Early Years and Second Level. Course 1 is an introduction “Education for our Time” formerly “Core Elements of Steiner Education” Course 2 is a more intensive immersion “To the Heart of Steiner Education”, (see below) Course 3 “Resolve, Resilience & Readiness is an intensive immersion and includes student projects/research, teacher development, the contemporary child and teaching in the 21st Century.

“To the Heart of Steiner Education” will run across the calendar year 2026 over 7 weekends plus 2 x 5 day blocks out of term time, and builds on the foundation provided by Core Elements of Steiner Education. We will cover the curriculum in greater depth through having themed weekends and blocks that show how each subject/theme develops as the child unfolds through the different ages. There will be ongoing study of key texts by Rudolf Steiner, giving the developmental picture of the human being in all its complexity and wonder. All sessions are rooted in illustrating the practicality and wisdom to be found in the understanding of the human being in the light of anthroposophy. They combine to offer an integrated whole that will develop an understanding of the philosophy and practices of the Steiner Primary school curriculum and its applications. Additional content is included on early years and second level education to create a whole and rounded picture and to meet the diverse needs and expressed interests of participants. Facilitated reflective practice, peer networking, mentoring and group work, brings the additional richness and benefits of colleagueship. Seminars will be led by Nell Smyth and a diverse group of specialist tutors. Small group peer mentoring sessions with specialist teachers according to the interests and needs of the participants will remain a key element, as will the exploration of our own unique perspectives as a key task for a teacher.

The thematic areas we will cover are maths, movement, art, craft, class trip, literacy, drama and class plays, music, science, additional needs.



Who is the SWIM Steiner Teacher Training course for?

- Teachers in Steiner Schools who don't have a Steiner Teacher Training
- State trained Primary School teachers who want to teach in Steiner Community National Schools.
- People with and without a state teacher training who want to teach in independent Steiner schools.
- Educators at all levels, from all schools, mainstream, Steiner, home educating & others, who want to do the course for Continuing Professional Development/Creative Personal Deepening

Recognition

The Course is recognised by Lifeways Ireland, Bláthú the Steiner Early Childhood Association and the Irish Waldorf Education Association as evidence of commitment to Steiner Pedagogy and ongoing engagement with CPD, the hallmark of a Steiner Teacher. Lifeways Ireland CLG are the body who carry responsibility for the ethos of the ETB Community National Schools offering a Steiner education.

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 **W**aldorf inár measc - Steiner **W**aldorf in our midst



SWIM - Steiner Waldorf In our Midst

Entry Requirements

Completion of the introduction course “Core Elements of Steiner Education”/ “Education for our Time”, or similar.

For information on “Education for our Time”, see www.steinerwaldorfireland.eu or email swim.cpd.training@gmail.com

DATES - 2026

- 7th & 8th March 2026 - Weekend 1**
- 6th-10th April 2026 - Week 1**
- 16th & 17th May 2026 - Weekend 2**
- 13th & 14th June 2026 - Weekend 3**
- 6th - 10th July 2026 - Week 2**
- 19th & 20th September 2026 - Weekend 4**
- 17th & 18th October 2026 - Weekend 5**
- 14th & 15th November 2026 - Weekend 6**
- 12th & 13th December 2026 - Weekend 7.**

TIMES

Weekends Saturday 9am-5.30pm followed by Supper and Sunday 9.30am - 1pm

Weeks Mon 2-5.30pm, Tues-Thurs 9am-5.30pm, Fri 9am-1pm, Supper Mon-Thurs.

LOCATION

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



COURSE FEE

The course fee is €2,500.

The course will run subject to enrolment of a minimum of 15 participants. Where enrolment is greater than 15 people we will offer a reduction in price.

Fee includes all refreshments and a high quality Lunch and Supper on full days, with dietary requirements catered for.

To request an Application Form please email swim.cpd.training@gmail.com

SWIM-Steiner CPD & Teacher Training, ALFA Steiner Secondary School, Tuamgraney, Co Clare V94 RW32
swim.cpd.training@gmail.com 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