

ADMISSIONS I - POLICY

GENERAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

Ringwood Waldorf School is an educational centre that offers Waldorf (Steiner) Education based on the philosophy of Dr. Rudolf Steiner.

Waldorf Education is a worldwide educational movement where the education is practised regardless of creed, race and religion.

As part of this movement Ringwood Waldorf School aims to be socially inclusive and selection for admission is not based on academic ability, gender, disability, race or religion.

In Waldorf Education the pedagogy, curriculum and management practices are integral to the education itself and these are informed by Anthroposophy, its concept of the universe, the world and the human being. This is the basis of the art of education and all endeavour in the school. It includes celebrating festivals which are Christian in the broadest sense and free of dogma or sectarianism.

It is the College of Teachers, working in a collegial way, which shares the responsibility for maintaining the ethos of the education and all aspects of school life.

FUNDAMENTAL STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

Connection and support for the educational principles

Parents applying to enrol their children to Ringwood Waldorf School need to demonstrate that they have given consideration to this form of education, agree and support the educational principles on which it is based and wish it for their children. This is an active (rather than passive) process. The school supports these considerations by offering Introductory Mornings where an overview of the education is outlined. In addition there are scheduled Open Days and appropriate reading lists are available. Courses and seminars are also periodically available.

The process of admission itself also offers opportunities for discussion and for questions to be asked.

When an application for admission is accepted, the Admission Agreement itself requires that parents continue to support the educational principles and ethos on which the school is founded. This agreement contains specific requirements such as attending Parent Evenings.

Admission assessment

The ability of the school to meet the educational needs of the child, now and in the future, forms part of the assessment made during the admission process. This assessment is made in the light of the resources currently available in the school for this purpose and in addition the needs of the rest of the class will also be considered.

This assessment will require that records of work, medical records, school reports and other relevant documents be made available before the educational interview takes place. Interviews with the parents and the student will also form part of this process of assessment.

Family Policy

Ringwood Waldorf School has a Family Policy where preference for admission is given to families who have other siblings in the school. Experience has shown that this is preferable educationally for the child and better enables the family to maintain the educational principles stated.

WAITING LIST MANAGEMENT AND PREFERENCE

Ringwood Waldorf School operates a weighted waiting list policy where preference for admission is given to certain categories of applicant.

The weighted criteria in order of preference are:

- Children of staff members
- Siblings of students already enrolled in the school.
- Students transferring from other Waldorf Schools.
- Other applicants.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents enrolling their children at Ringwood Waldorf School will be required to complete a Minimum Funding Contribution Promise Form prior to interview. Attention is drawn to the separate document entitled 'Information for Prospective Parents on Financial and Community Responsibilities'.

Failure to meet financial and community responsibilities may result in a family being required to withdraw from the school on the basis of non co-operation.

The processes and procedures for admission are described in other documents and prospective parents are advised to ask for these.