



PHILOSOPHY

“Receive the children in reverence, educate them with love, and let them go forth in freedom.” Rudolf Steiner.

Vision

At Wild Cherry School we continually strive to educate and support the development and potential of each individual child, whilst fostering a creative and ethical community.

Our Values

Foster a desire in our students to aim for academic and artistic excellence, by providing them with a richly diverse and integrated curriculum.

Inspire the children with a lifelong love of learning, a morality that strives for goodness, an appreciation of beauty and a pursuit of truth.

Develop trust and respect for themselves, each other, the broader community and the earth.

Rudolf Steiner

Dr. Rudolf Steiner was an Austrian philosopher, architect, artist and scientist. He founded the first Waldorf School in Stuttgart, Germany in 1919. He was also the founder of bio-dynamic agriculture and a stream of therapeutic medicine. His work strongly influences these various domains today.

Waldorf/Steiner education is holistic; integrating and balancing the development of: the intellectual, imaginative/artistic capacities and practical life skills, (embodied learning). Students are encouraged to find their own authentic voice through the development of moral capacities. The curriculum serves this end by providing diverse and stimulating content, including deep immersion in the culture and history of various peoples, and practical experiences which are in harmony with the stages of childhood.

The school supports the educational indications given by Rudolf Steiner and acknowledge the depth of wisdom that became the basis for such a “living” curriculum, which is now widely recognised as a dynamic and innovative educational ideal.

At Wild Cherry, we encompass the essentials of Waldorf Education, whilst allowing our teachers flexibility and professional autonomy. Through committed and ongoing professional development, we ensure that we meet current educational and child safe standards.

Self-Management in Steiner/Waldorf Schools

“The Waldorf school was founded on two fundamental sets of principles. The first was the Curriculum and the study of the developing human being that informs it. The other foundation was to be provided by the functional principles of the Threefold Social Order. A central objective in Steiner/Waldorf education is social renewal. The main means towards achieving a healthier social life is the cultivation of social responsibility, based on individual insight through a broad and holistic education.” - Mawson and Richter

The Threefold Social Order is a way of understanding the dynamic and functional interaction between the principal areas of social life: the economic sphere (mutuality and support), the sphere of rights and politics, (equality and justice) and the cultural, spiritual sphere (freedom).

These fundamental principles are reflected in the organisational structures of Steiner Waldorf schools around the world and rely on healthy and ethical collaboration between the three spheres. These principles were established to ensure the professional autonomy of teachers and their rights.

Wild Cherry School is guided by a Leadership Team which represents:

The College of Teachers (cultural sphere- freedom)

Administration (mutuality and support).

It is overseen by a Board of Governors (equality and justice).

Stages of Childhood

Waldorf /Steiner education recognises developmental stages of childhood, with the curriculum being designed specifically to meet the needs of each stage.

Early Childhood

The early childhood years are characterised by children actively learning through play - through imitation and their own creative experiences. The child's imagination is fostered through stories, songs, creative play, interaction with nature and the development of practical skills through such activities as cooking and craft.

The Primary Years

In the primary years, the further development of imaginative capacities enables the students to engage with academic material and forms the foundation of future creativity, problem solving and innovation. The timing of curriculum content and practical lessons is carefully matched to the children's developmental and emotional needs. Social awareness is enhanced through the capacity to learn about, understand and respect different cultures, extending to care for the world. These themes are consciously developed throughout the curriculum.

The Role of the Teacher

One of the fundamental principles of Waldorf/Steiner Education is the role and responsibility of the class teacher. This is exemplified through the long-term relationships that are fostered through the teacher taking the one group of students through their primary years. Wild Cherry is constituted as a primary school to Class 6.

The development of relationships over time, helps foster deeper knowledge and understandings that support the child's growth throughout their primary years. This is also very supportive in building socially moral and inclusive relationships. This aspect of the teacher's work is particularly beneficial and pertinent to our time and the importance of student welfare, especially considering we are receiving so many children with special needs into our schools.

For class teachers to take a group of students for up to six or seven years takes considerable personal commitment, and is considered much more as a vocation rather than a career. The teacher models the path of life-long learning and continual personal development. Wild Cherry School fosters this through an active mentoring and professional development program, both internal and external.

Educational Program

Wild Cherry School's educational program is aligned with Steiner Education Australia, the educational works of Mawson and Richter and the Victorian Curriculum.