

## Philosophy.

Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup is part of an international educational movement of schools and kindergartens associated with Steiner/Waldorf Education. There are now over 1050 schools and nearly 2000 Steiner/Waldorf kindergartens, home programs, childcare centres and pre-schools around the globe.

The curriculum and philosophy are based on the research and knowledge of philosopher, scientist, educationalist and artist, Rudolf Steiner. Steiner's educational philosophy offers a path from early childhood to adulthood that extends beyond the normal educational goals of knowledge accumulation and academic excellence, to a holistic picture of the human being.

Ballarat Steiner School has been founded as a response to families, teachers and friends in the local region seeking an alternative education for their children and the vision, mission and objective continues to be to provide an independent, co-educational, non-denominational school, kindergarten and playgroup that is open to everyone, based on the literature and work of Rudolf Steiner.

Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup enact this philosophy through our pedagogy which is based upon the three-fold focus of "thinking, feeling and willing" or "head, heart and hands" which equips students with a healthy balance of faculties for their lifelong learning journey. By making learning a joyful experience and by teaching the children when they are developmentally ready to learn, a level of enthusiasm is engendered through which educational outcomes are ultimately improved and a lifelong love of learning can occur.

In addition to this, Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup strive to support a consciously created community in which children, parents, teachers and support staff all benefit in their personal journeys as a result of engaging with the different programs, festivals and community events that take place at our unique school.

Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup values:

- The developmental picture of human consciousness and development given as a basis for this education by Rudolf Steiner.
- This uniquely balanced education which integrates academic excellence with practical learning and creative and performing arts.
- The unique spiritual nature of every child, recognising that each is on an individual journey of biographical development.
- A shared creative journey in learning that brings together child, family, teacher and community.
- Child safety.

We believe Steiner education, in its style structure and curriculum, seeks to nurture the whole human being, teaching skills without destroying initiative, allowing self-expression without impinging on the rights of the community. Eventually, it will set the individual in the world as a free moral person able to give purpose and direction to their own life. Steiner education develops skills, knowledge and values that promote behaviour in support of a sustainable environment. We acknowledge humanity's interdependence with the future of the natural world. We aim to work in harmony with the forces of nature in a creative and collaborative



manner, continuing the traditions of Rudolf Steiner’s sustainable agricultural traditions, and working to foster respect for self, others and the environment. The total school experience and each individual subject are taken with these aims in mind. Steiner education is based firmly on the changing developmental needs of the children, preparing them to be adults of the future. Steiner education aims, through its balanced threefold approach to develop healthy children who will, in turn, create a healthy society.

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

Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup’s philosophy is available on our website, in the parent handbook and on the notice board.

### Authorisation

Ballarat Steiner School and Kindergarten Management Team  
May, 2021