



EARLY YEARS PUPIL ASSESSMENT POLICY & PROCEDURE 2016

Assessment is an important part of good educational practice and related to long-term, medium and short-term planning. The assessment methods and criteria should reflect the philosophy and educational approach of the Steiner Waldorf approach to education. Good teaching practice occurs when the self-reflective teacher also regularly appraises and assesses his/her own teaching as well as the progress of each individual child, supported and affirmed by a strong collegial circle which is committed to quality education. Assessment highlights clarity or its lack in every aspect of teaching practise.

At our kindergarten, regular assessment of each child's healthy and age appropriate development rests upon the following procedures:

INTERVIEW FORM: On entry to the Early Years Department there is a detailed interview with parents to establish background information on the child, including a biography of the child. Basic information is then entered on the interview form.

SHARED OBSERVATION: The teachers and other staff write observations. A Child Profile is kept with on-going observations as well as photos, drawings, some activities and parent's contributions.

ONGOING DIALOGUE WITH PARENTS: The prospectus/handbook and the initial interview meeting will ensure that all parents are clear as to the educational practice and intentions of a Steiner Waldorf Kindergarten. We have regular Parents Evenings' where questions will be answered.

Communication with parents will then continue:

- a) Informally at the end of each session when necessary.
- b) In a more structured setting at the termly parent evenings where general child development will be shared.
- c) Meeting with individual parents by arrangement.
- d) Home visits at the invitation of parents.

CHILD STUDY: A more detailed study may be undertaken of individual children which is shared between all teaching staff.

SPECIAL NEEDS: There is a separate Special Educational Needs Policy which acknowledges the need for extra specialised assessment and Individual Education Plans for certain children.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT: We make a summative assessment of each child's progress and development twice-yearly using a Steiner Waldorf / EYFS profile. This is shared with parents.

LEARNING JOURNEY: We produce a 'Learning Journey' celebrating the child's experiences and achievements through the year, which is sent to parents at the end of the summer term.

ENTERING SCHOOL: Before entering Class 1 each child is described to the Pedagogical meeting and the future Class 1 teacher is invited to observe the children. Up to date records are passed to the teacher or to their new school.

EYFS: We work within the statutory framework of the EYFS. In order to take on board the EYFS and at the same time not to compromise our educational approach, we have applied for exemptions from particular aspects (details provided on request).

Approval & Review

This policy has been approved by the Board of Trustees on 3rd March 2016

Policy review date: February 2017