



PERTH WALDORF  
SCHOOL  
Steiner Education

# Is Steiner education right for *your* family?





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Steiner education is designed to cater to a diverse range of children and families. While there is no single type of child or family that is required for Steiner education, certain characteristics and values tend to align well with the philosophy and approach of Steiner schools.

Here are some qualities that we expect for a family and child to successfully engage in what we offer at our school:

## **Openness to holistic development**

Steiner education prioritises the holistic development of the child, covering intellectual, artistic, practical, and emotional aspects. Families who value a well-rounded education that equally emphasises these aspects alongside academics will find this philosophy to be a good fit.

## **Spiritual perspective**

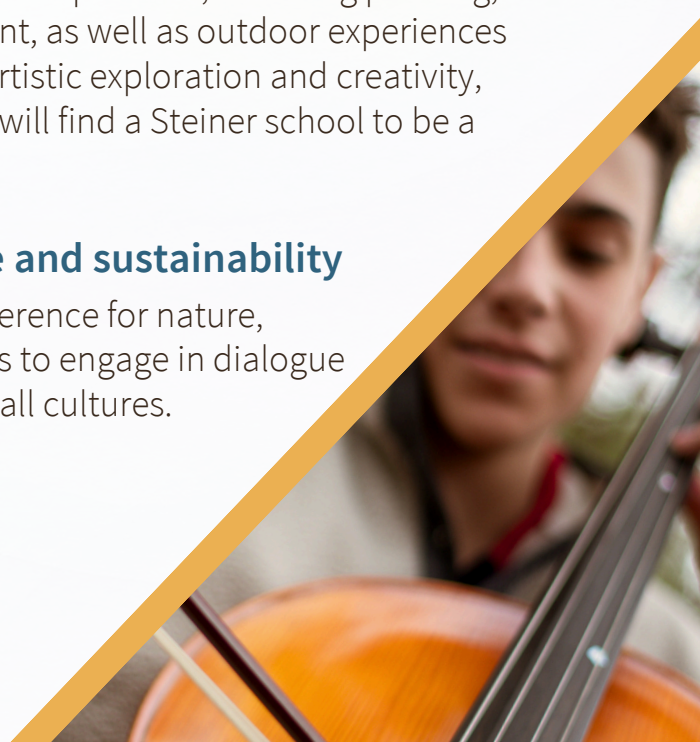
Steiner education incorporates a spiritual understanding of the human being and the world around us. Families and staff at Steiner schools are expected to align with the perspective that each human being is a unique and spiritual entity with a distinct purpose on Earth. Our teaching is designed to support the unfolding of this purpose by developing capacities in each child – there is no religion or ideology.

## **Appreciation for creativity, the arts and outdoor experiences**

Steiner schools place a strong emphasis on artistic expression, including painting, drawing, drama, music, handwork, and movement, as well as outdoor experiences like camping. Families who value and promote artistic exploration and creativity, along with opportunities for outdoor education, will find a Steiner school to be a good match.

## **Respect for nature, First Nations culture and sustainability**

Steiner education fosters a deep respect and reverence for nature, emphasises environmental awareness, and seeks to engage in dialogue and learning alongside First Nations people and all cultures.







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## Willing to embrace rhythm

Steiner schools work with rhythm and routine in the classroom. We encourage a lifestyle for children that includes regular routines and rituals. Families who appreciate a balanced and predictable daily rhythm, along with seasonal celebrations and traditions, may find this aspect of Steiner education appealing.

## Commitment to parental involvement

Steiner education places importance on the partnership between teachers, parents, and the school community. Families who are eager to actively engage with the school's ethos, participate in events, and support their child's learning will benefit from our collaborative approach.

## Interest in diverse assessment approaches

Steiner education offers traditional grading and exams but also places a strong emphasis on qualitative assessments and teacher observations. Families who appreciate an approach that focuses equally on academic, artistic, social, and practical development will find this approach compatible.

## Transformational approach to whole class learning

Steiner education uses the classroom experience and curriculum as a transformative tool. Each child's intellectual, emotional, and spiritual dimensions are nurtured via a whole class approach. It is a collaborative and relationship-based approach that encourages a sense of wonder, imagination, and creativity, fostering a deep connection between students and their learning.

## Experiential learning and exploration

Tailored to the age of students, the curriculum is taught through an experiential and phenomenological approach. This academically rigorous and structured approach empowers children to explore phenomena with their teacher and peers, helping them develop a strong sense of self, empathy, and resilience. Our graduates are well-rounded individuals ready to contribute positively to the world.



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## Limited screen time

Steiner education advocates for low or no exposure to screen technology from early years through to the end of primary school. Emphasis is placed on direct sensory experiences, imaginative play, and face-to-face interactions to support healthy social, emotional, and cognitive development. For older students entering Class 8, parents are expected to actively monitor and support their children's use of social media and other screen activities. Families who share this perspective and are willing to reduce and monitor screen time will find Steiner education aligns with their values.

It's important to note that while Steiner education encourages limiting screen time, it does not imply a complete absence of technology. Digital technologies are integral to modern life, and their introduction into the Steiner high school curriculum from Year 8 onwards is deliberate, considered and gradual. Our goal is to prepare students to master technology rather than be shaped by it.

## Are we a match?

Steiner education values holistic development, creativity, and a spiritual understanding of the human being. Families who prioritise a well-rounded education, respect for nature, active parental involvement, and a considered approach to screen use and daily rhythm will find our school aligns with their aspirations for their child.

## Apply or book a tour

If Steiner education feels like the right fit for your family, email us to apply or book a tour:

[pws@pws.wa.edu.au](mailto:pws@pws.wa.edu.au)

