

Press Release

Steiner Academy Tops Fairer Schools Index.

The Steiner Academy Hereford has been ranked first in this year's Fairer Schools Index of schools in England.

Located in rural Herefordshire, the school delivers a broad, creative Waldorf curriculum. Through integrating academic learning with practical skills, children and young people are given opportunities to learn in a wide range of ways which enables them to feel competent. This in turn builds confidence and encourages a love of learning. All the subjects of the national curriculum are delivered through an approach that is designed to meet each child at their developmental stage.

The Principal of the school, Kate Andrews, said today -

“We are delighted to have this recognition. A lot of passion and creativity has gone into developing the school. We aim to ensure all children enjoy their learning, have a sense of belonging and can be themselves because when these elements are in place children do their best regardless of background and any hurdles they may face.”

The Executive Director of Waldorf UK, Fran Russell said today -

In recent years the Waldorf school movement within the UK has been working hard to review and reframe how Waldorf education can best meet the needs of today's children. The Steiner Academy Hereford is an excellent example of what Waldorf education can contribute as part of state education.

Additional information.

- The Steiner Academy Hereford is an all through school catering for 350 children from age 3 to 16 with GCSE results that are consistently within the top three schools in the County.
- It became an academy in 2008 under the previous Labour Government and is the only Steiner Waldorf school in the UK that is state funded.
- It does not deliver the national curriculum and formal learning starts at age 6 in line with most European countries.
- It offers a creative pedagogy that balances academic and vocational learning and makes children's enjoyment of school a key priority as a precursor to learning and preparation for life.
- A distinctive feature of its curriculum is that the early childhood phase combines age groups between 3 to 6 in a kindergarten environment that replicates the home.
- At its last Ofsted inspection the school was ranked “outstanding” in three areas and “good” overall and has been a consistently “good” school.
- Also known as ‘Waldorf schools’, there are 17 independent schools across the UK which are also non-selective, comprehensive schools offering low cost independent education.



- Following a number of inspection failures between 2018/19 a school improvement programme has led to all schools meeting the independent school standards and 98% of schools inspected by Ofsted being ranked “good”.
- There are over 1200 Waldorf schools and early years settings worldwide and in many countries the schools are state funded including in Finland, USA, Taiwan and Australia.
- **The Fairer Schools Index** is compiled by the **University of Bristol** and adjusts for a range of socio economic and other variables. It is published by the [Northern Powerhouse](#).
- Waldorf UK (formerly known as the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship) is the representative body for Steiner Waldorf schools across the UK.

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