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HUGH GRANT'S CALL FOR SCREEN FREE 'HERO SCHOOLS' – STEP THIS WAY TO 18 STEINER WALDORF SCHOOLS!

Hugh Grant's heartfelt call for 'hero schools' can already be answered by the 18 Steiner Waldorf schools that exist across the UK.

Waldorf UK schools provide **screen-free learning until children reach early adolescence**. Instead, children first work hands-on with analogue technology and gradually move into learning about and using digital technology when developmentally ready.

The schools also actively cultivate a culture of **screen-free childhoods**, by supporting families to delay children's personal phone and iPad use, shielding them also from social media until they are sufficiently mature to be discerning and manage it.

Fran Russell, Executive Director said today, "Our approach is to introduce technology gradually and as children become developmentally ready. Children then learn to manage the technology in a way that serves but does not dominate or control them."

Hugh Grant also called for more outdoor play. This is central to the Waldorf model which combines hands-on learning, rich storytelling, the arts and plenty of movement including plenty of outdoor play with academic knowledge-based learning. Only in severe weather would children be kept inside.

And it works.

The Steiner Academy Hereford was recently ranked top in England by the [Fairer Schools Index](#) which takes into account the socio-economic background of children. At its last Ofsted inspection, the school was also ranked "outstanding" in three areas and is consistently within the top 3 schools in Herefordshire for GCSE results. All but two of our independent schools inspected by Ofsted are ranked "good" and those that teach up to GCSEs perform better than the national average.

Ends

Notes to Editors:

- There are 17 Independent Steiner Waldorf schools and 1 state funded academy (Steiner Academy Hereford) across the UK.
- During the period 2018/2019, a number of Steiner Waldorf schools failed Ofsted inspections with some schools closing. But now all schools inspected by Ofsted meet the independent school standards and safeguarding requirements.
- All but two of those schools are ranked 'good', with inspectors frequently commenting on the warmth, nurture and strong learning within schools.
- The names 'Steiner' and 'Waldorf' are used interchangeably.

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