

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 December 2025

Parents call for screen-free education as well as social media bans. Meet the Schools that do both.

With the Australian Government's ban on social media for under-16s, public debate is growing around screen time for children in the UK.

Steiner Waldorf schools stand out for offering something rare: a fully screen-free education until secondary school whilst still building the skills needed for digital learning and staying safe online. In secondary school digital learning is gradually integrated as children mature with many lessons still delivered without screens. This approach is a decisive reason for many families choosing Waldorf education — a place where childhood unfolds in the real world, preparing children for entering the virtual one.

What Steiner Waldorf schools do:

- **First analogue, then digital.** We emphasise the importance of analogue experiences — time spent in nature, storytelling, drawing, hand-crafts (sewing/knitting/woodwork), music, movement, drama and other arts — in early years and primary education.
- **Developing Media maturity.** Our schools follow a structured, age-appropriate media education curriculum that aims for “media maturity” (Hermmes project). By the end of their school career, pupils are equipped not only to use digital media competently for learning, civic participation and work — but to make conscious, critical, self-regulated decisions about how much time they spend on digital tools and for what purpose.
- **Digital literacy, when introduced, complements — not replaces — human teaching.** When digital technology is introduced, it is treated as a supportive tool, enhancing learning without displacing the central role of teacher, peer interaction, hands-on activity, and direct engagement with the natural and social world.
- **Holistic, child- centred education.** Our approach is grounded in the principle of educating the “whole child” — head, heart and hands — giving equal weight to intellectual, emotional, social and practical development.

Fran Russell, Executive Director, said:

“In Steiner Waldorf schools we embrace digital technologies as incredible tools for our society but it is absolutely clear that to thrive in this fast-moving digital world children first need time and space to mature naturally — socially, emotionally, physically and imaginatively.”

“Our approach is not about denying technology — it is about respecting childhood, protecting wellbeing, and cultivating maturity, critical thinking, creativity and balanced media use.”

A Steiner Waldorf parent said — “The screen-free environment was the main reason we chose Waldorf education for our son. He was able to enjoy a childhood free of worry and stress and now as a teenager he is present, grounded and socially connected in ways that feel healthy.”

Ends

Notes for Editors:

- Waldorf UK is the representative body for Steiner Waldorf education in the UK, supporting 18 schools and 10 independent kindergartens. The Steiner Academy Hereford is part of the state sector. All other schools are independent.
- Waldorf education is based on the educational ideas of Austrian philosopher Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) and seeks to develop academic, social and emotional growth equally.
- The names 'Steiner', 'Waldorf' and 'Steiner Waldorf' are used interchangeably.
- The Hermmes Project is an international initiative <https://hermmes.eu/>.

Media Contacts:

- Fran Russell - Executive Director, Waldorf UK
fran.russell@waldorfeducation.uk Mobile - 07973 323795
 - Valerie McDonough – Operations Manager, Waldorf UK
businessops@waldorfeducation.uk
-