



Lancaster Steiner School
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Dear Kindergarten Parents,

In the term after your child turns 5, they are, by law, obliged to attend school full time unless they are registered as home-educated. Full time education means 21.5 hours of teaching time for Key Stage 1 children (up to 6/7yrs).

In Steiner Waldorf Education, the child only begins what we call formal education (Lower School) when they are 6/7 years old, and until that time they remain in the kindergarten. We have a cut off date for school entry, which is that the child should be 6 before May 31st of the year in which they are to enter school. There is often some leeway, and many school readiness assessments are done which will enable the teachers and parents to discuss those children who are border-line.

In our kindergarten we expect the children who are 5 to attend 5 days a week. In exceptional circumstances for the benefit of the child, a 5 year old child may attend kindergarten for less than 5 days a week, these exceptions would be agreed on a case by case basis with the kindergarten teacher.

Currently our kindergarten hours cover 18 hours 45 minutes of those 21.5 hours. To make up further hours children may attend afternoon club sessions. Each afternoon adds 2 hours and 30 minutes onto school attendance time. Additionally although kindergarten morning officially starts at 9, children may begin their morning at 8.45.

The alternative is to sign a 'Home-School agreement' which means that you agree to home educate your child for the hours which they are not attending kindergarten. We have enclosed one of these for you to consider. This only needs to be signed if the child does not attend for the required hours and is over 5 years old.

Please do consider all these options, and let the teachers know your decision. The teachers and administrator are available if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

The College of Teachers.

HOME/SCHOOL AGREEMENT.

I/We.....(parents) agree that we will home-educate our child.....(child's name) to make up the hours that they are not in full time education.

I/We acknowledge that our child should be attending full time school and have chosen to send them to Cherrytrees Kindergarten at Lancaster Steiner School.

I/We agree that our child is currently registered at Lancaster Steiner school for hours per week by agreement with his/her class teacher.

.....(signature)