

Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School and Kindergarten Strategic Plan and Charter 2009

Mission statement

Steiner education will enable each pupil to become a free, responsible and caring individual with purpose and direction in life, with an awareness of the environment, an individual who as a citizen can contribute to the future.

“The healthy social life is found when in the mirror of each human soul the whole community finds its reflection, and when in the community the virtue of each one is living.”

Rudolf Steiner

Values

1. We value and actively choose Steiner Education in all its aspects:
 - Education of the whole child – hands, heart and head
 - Provision of an age appropriate arts-based approach to the full curriculum
 - Inclusion of all people with a commitment to the Special Character of the school
 - Nurturing of pre-academic skills as a foundation for academic learning
 - Recognition of the humanity in each individual and the need for community
 - Cultivation of purposeful action based on the rhythms of daily life and the seasons of the natural world
 - Protection of the natural culture of childhood, free from the influences of commercial mass media
2. We understand the place of Māori as Tangata Whenua.

*Tau ana ko te noho tahitanga
O nga whanau, o nga tuakana
Me nga teina I roto I te whariki ngahere
Ara, ka puawai nga tamariki a Matariki*

*Mahia nga mahi o nga tamariki
Hei apopo ka tu
Hei rangatira*

*Peaceful earthy colours from the forest weave a mat
For the koru frond to rest upon, smaller koru are securely nestled. From this
embrace stars burst forth to realize their potential.*

Fulfil the needs of our children and tomorrow they stand strong.

3. We endeavour to communicate, with empathy, in a manner that is clear, transparent, timely, appropriate and direct (*listening and speaking*).

Vision

1. A healthy early childhood pathway that leads into a full class one each year.
2. A financially and pedagogically viable Primary school offering Steiner education up to the start of High School with separate classes at each age level.
3. The organic development of dynamic growing community with a strong cultural life having activities and groups appropriate to well established Steiner Schools.
4. Children who are creative thinkers, socially aware and reaching their academic and artistic potential.

Children's Day has its own special tohu, or symbol. Designed in 2001 by the late Raukawa kuia, Horiana Joyce, the Children's Day tohu reflects images that are unique to New Zealand's natural habitat. Look closely and you will see the greens and browns from our forest, curling koru fronds and shooting stars.

The whakatauki, or proverb, that accompanies the tohu gives this powerful symbol a voice. The whakamarama, the explanation, of the whakatauki was composed by Kui Pani Waru, no Ngati Porou, and inspired by a well-known Kohanga Waiata.