



ENROLMENT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to outline the schools' position on enrolment as it relates to the 'special character' of the school. Admission into Waikato Waldorf School reflects a new and exciting phase in a child's journey and the onset of a relationship with learning within a more formal educational context. At the same time parents also enter into a partnership with the school, and in particular the class teacher who will play a major part in the child's formative years.

The teaching faculty at Waikato Waldorf are entrusted with the responsibility of taking children through a curriculum that is sensitive to the unfolding of the child's faculties as they mature and also upholds the integrity and sanctity of childhood.

In order for this process to unfold as intended, to the greatest benefit of the child, the school is required to enter into an agreement with each family that attends the school.

An agreement that refers to the way:

All families enrolling students in our school are required under the 'Preference Clause' of our *Integration Deed and the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975* have to hold a connection with the special character of the school.

This is fundamental to the level of success that the school and the child are able to achieve. It is also essential for the preservation of Waikato Waldorf as a special character school.

Our Enrolment Policy functions to preserve a class teacher's ability to teach the whole child effectively. This is necessary due to the way Steiner education is broad and comprehensive, dedicated to teaching the child as a threefold being in the realms of 'thinking', 'feeling and willing' and also 'spirit, soul and body'.

In the context of Steiner Education, students are:

- stimulated with a full spectrum of traditional academic subjects,
- healthy emotional and social development is nurtured through experiential and child-centered learning, and

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- the child's physical being is fully integrated into learning through a broad range of artistic, movement, handwork and craft activities.

SPECIAL CHARACTER

While the term special character serves to characterise educationally what is unique about the pedagogical approach of our school (outlined above), distinguishing it from mainstream education, it also reflects the ethos of the community who make up Waikato Waldorf, both on and off campus.

The philosophical perspective and shared values that are manifested in our curriculum should ideally also extend to, and reflect everyday practices and approach to life at home.

For some families 'special character' might align well with pre-existing beliefs, whilst for other families their orientation and connectedness to the 'special character' of the school will grow as they embark on their journey through Waikato Waldorf. However, prior to embarking on a Rudolf Steiner education all families are required to *demonstrate a commitment* to preserving and maintaining the special character of the school.

Application of Special Character to Enrolment

- This policy serves to predominantly address the second developmental phase that Rudolf Steiner Education is designed to facilitate and cultivate, encompassing the education provided from 7 to 14 years of age. It is important to differentiate the particular needs of Waikato Waldorf School in terms of special character, as distinct from other aspects of the Rudolf Steiner provision offered at Waikato Waldorf (i.e. childcare and kindergarten).
- Waikato Waldorf School exists to provide a special character education to its students. The Board of Trustees (BoT), the Proprietors Trust (PT) and School Administration (Principal) therefore hold a legal obligation and responsibility to maintain and preserve that 'special character' whilst also meeting the expectations and standards of educational provision, delivery and achievement as determined by the Ministry of Education.
- Enrolment processes for Waikato Waldorf School are designed to safeguard the school's capacity to provide a Rudolf Steiner education to its students. This is fundamental to the character of the school and requires that all procedures (outlined within our Enrolment Procedures document) must be read subject to that principle.
- Criteria outlined in Enrolment Procedures document covers the enrolment process for families of individual students. School decision-making regarding enrolment may also however comprise of consideration given 'special character' as it relates to the composition and nature of a class and the teachers capacity to effectively deliver a Steiner education to the whole class.

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Enrolling from Miro House

Waikato Waldorf School's enrolment policy is implemented whilst children are still in attendance at Miro House Kindergarten. This means that children come onto the school's roll at 6 years of age¹, but remain at the kindergarten until they are ready to progress onto the school². While the procedures for the school enrolment process are implemented and managed collectively and collaboratively by the school and the kindergarten, it is *governed* by the requisites of Waikato Waldorf School as outlined in this policy.

Date Ratified: 27th November, 2014-11-27

Signed: Andrew McFadden
Waikato Waldorf School Board of Trustees, Board Chair

¹ Covered by our Integration Agreement. The Deed of Agreement pursuant to the Private Schools Conditional Integration Act 1975 between the Rudolf Steiner Schools (Waikato) Trust and the Crown establishing the Integrated School, dated 15 December 1997.

² As agreed within a *Memorandum of Understanding* between the Secretary of Education and the Federation of Rudolf Steiner Waldorf Schools in NZ.