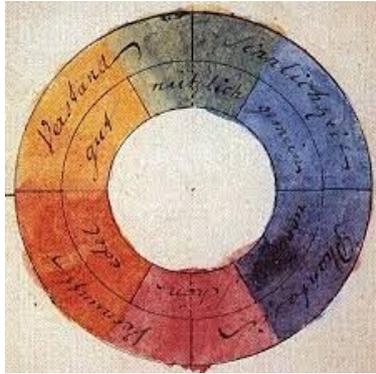


Waldorf Education Your Questions Answered

Why are the classrooms painted different colours for different ages groups?



One of the things that strikes you as you walk around the school are the beautiful colours of the classrooms, but this isn't by chance. Rudolf Steiner studied colour, he worked to expand upon Goethe's theory on colour. In fact, the colours of all the classrooms within a Waldorf school are chosen intentionally to suit the developmental age of the child walking into that classroom. Children experience colour as part of their educational process and reinforces the mood of the curriculum.

"Colour is the soul of nature ... and when we experience colour we participate in this soul."
Rudolf Steiner

So which colours do we use in our classrooms?

"In the nursery, kindergarten, and early grades, a soft, warm, pink tone is usually selected for walls and curtains because of its gently active and supportive quality. Pink is a loving, innocent colour, decidedly feminine in character. Therefore, it is a natural colour choice for the daily embracing of this age group.



The Waldorf classroom colours evolve from these warm, reddish tones in the early grades, through energetic orange/yellow around third grade, into the middle spectrum greens around fourth and fifth grade. It is here at the half-way-point of childhood that a kind of balance is achieved just before the onset of puberty. Green is the balanced colour between light and darkness, and meets this age group in a harmonious way. From sixth grade on into the high school, various shades of blue dominate, and even lavender, lilac, and violet tones are indicated for the more inwardly active, thoughtful work of the upper school adolescent. However, craft rooms are often appropriately painted with warm colours, and spaces for eating are aided by appetite sympathetic golden-orange colours."

Van James

<https://www.waldorftoday.com/2010/12/color-in-the-waldorf-school-van-james/>



As you can see each classroom is a unique space for the specific age group or activity/subject.

One final thing we should mention is the special way the paint can be applied to the walls. At our school you can see this in our main hall and in our therapy room. It involves several layers of colourwash over a white base. This allows the light to pass through and then reflect back giving a pure colour experience that can have a powerful healing influence offering a calming or dynamic movement of colour on the walls that changes tones throughout the day.