

The St Michael Steiner School

PSHEE

The PSHEE provision at the St Michael Steiner School is an integral part of their everyday school experience. It begins in kindergarten with the learning of practical, useful skills such as vegetable preparation, bread making, and whittling. Practical activities continue in the lower school in this way and also in craft lessons, where skills are taught in a more intentional way. From Class 1 onwards, the children have what is called a 'Religion' lesson at least once a week. These begin as story lessons where archetypal pictures of human experience are brought to the children, and continue with fables and stories of saints which illustrate different ways in which people deal with the passions and challenges of life. Later, we tell biographies that do this is a way that is more appropriate for older children.

In order to support the young people in their continued development, after about age 12, these lessons also include discussions about world events and issues that affect their own lives, coming out of news stories or from biographies. As they get older, the children are increasingly aware of what is going on in the world and are more able to listen to different points of view and have more informed discussions. Although these discussions can arise in any lesson, we dedicate one lesson per week specifically for this kind of discussion. The teacher's task is to guide the discussions in a productive way, and to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute if they want to.

Issues that arise may also be related to the group dynamics, perhaps in order to address a particular situation within the group or for an individual. This process is supported by the fact that, where possible, the teacher who leads these lessons has been doing so with the same group of children since Class 1. This means that he/she knows the children very well and a good, trusting relationship has been built up over several years.

Careers

Our curriculum has, as a central aim, preparation for life. The children learn and use many practical skills during the normal school day. The breadth of the curriculum gives each child the opportunity to find what he/she enjoys doing, what she/he is interested in and what he/she is good at. Good work habits, related to organisation and punctuality, independence, initiative, stamina and responsibility are consciously developed throughout the school.

In Class 8, the students work for the year on a personal project on a subject of their own choosing. This activity is continued in the High School, so that every student is able to develop and go more deeply into something that interests him/her.

The High School students will have regular tutorials with a personal tutor who can advise them on their projects, their work generally and help them look to the future.

In Class 11, The students will have two or three week work placements, organised by them, with support from parents and teachers. In this way, they can experience something of what various professions and work environments are like.