



The St Michael Steiner School

Information Pack

2017 - 2018

Term Dates 2017-18

MICHAELMAS TERM 2017

- 4 September (Monday) – INSET DAY (no school)
- 5 September (Tuesday) – INSET DAY (no school)
- 6 September (Wednesday) – First day of School Year
- 19 October (Thursday) – School ends for half-term
- 20 October (Friday) – INSET DAY (no school)
- 30 October (Monday) – Back to school
- 15 December (Friday) – End of Term

SPRING TERM 2018

- 8 January (Monday) – INSET DAY (no school)
- 9 January (Tuesday) – First day of Spring Term
- 8 February (Thursday) – School ends for half-term
- 9 February (Friday) – INSET DAY (no school)
- 19 February (Monday) – Back to school
- 23 March (Friday) – End of Term

SUMMER TERM 2018

- 16 April (Monday) – INSET DAY (no school)
- 17 April (Tuesday) – First day of Summer Term
- 24 May (Thursday) – School ends for half-term
- 25 May (Friday) – INSET DAY (no school)
- 4 June (Monday) – Back to school
- 13 July (Friday) – End of School Year

Open Days 2017 - 2018

Saturdays

Children and friends are welcome to our Saturday Open Days. No booking required.

23rd Sept 2017

14th Oct 2017

27th Jan 2018

10th March 2018

21st April 2018

23rd June 2018

Wednesdays

Please book with Grace at reception to attend our Open House events. These include a tour of the school during normal school days, so are not appropriate for young children.

18th Oct 2017

15th Nov 2017

28th Feb 2018

9th May 2018

Please check our website for updated details of Open Days.

<http://stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk/open-days/>

School Hours

KINDERGARTENS

8:30am - 12:30pm Monday to Friday

(See Early Years Handbook for details of Parent & Child Groups and Afternoon Care)

CLASSES 1, 2, 3 & 4

8:30am - 3:00pm Monday to Thursday

8:30am - 12:30pm Friday

CLASSES 5, 6, 7 and 8

8:30am - 3:00pm Monday to Friday

HIGH SCHOOL

8:30am - 4:00pm Monday to Friday

Application procedure

- If you would like to visit the school or speak to a member of staff please phone to make an appointment.
- If you would like to apply for a place in the school for your child(ren), please complete and return the Application form with any supporting documentation and admin fee. All documents supplied will be treated in the strictest confidence.
- Please note that the High School application form has two parts: one to be completed by the student him/herself and one for parents.
- When your application has been received, we will contact you within one week to arrange an interview for your child with the relevant teacher(s), which will take about an hour, and also a financial interview with the bursar.
- You will be advised of the outcome within one week of the interview.
- Places are offered subject to terms and conditions. (see below)
- £1000 deposit is required upon acceptance of a place. This deposit will be held until payment for your child(ren)'s last term in the school has been received. Arrangements can be made to pay the deposit over the child's first term in the school, since this is, anyway, probationary.
- When we have received your acceptance of our offer, we will send you an Acceptance Pack with your formal letter of acceptance and some practical information.
- Any offer of a place is initially subject to a probationary term, during which your child may leave (or be asked to leave) without notice and your deposit will be returned.

What happens at the interview?

- Kindergarten children are not interviewed but should accompany their parents. Please see the Early Years Handbook on our website for more information.
- Classes 1 - 8: when you bring your child for an interview at The St Michael Steiner School he/she will spend between 30 minutes and an hour with the prospective Class Teacher and another teacher.
- They will have a conversation about the child's likes and dislikes, interests and activities; there will be some movement, for example skipping, jumping, clapping rhythms, throwing and catching; depending on the age of the child, he/she may also be asked to read and write something, to do few sums and to draw some forms and a picture.
- Parents then have an opportunity to speak with the prospective Class Teacher while the child is supervised by the other interviewing teacher.
- In the case of High School and older Middle school students, it is usually appropriate for the student to be included in the parent/teacher interview.
- Everything is carried out in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere so that the child can behave as normally as possible and does not feel he/she is being tested.
- There is no question of a child 'failing' an interview; the only reasons we would turn a child away at this stage is if we did not feel that we could meet his/her needs in some way with the staff, facilities and resources available.

Terms of Acceptance and Probation

- All children are accepted into the school subject to interview, the agreement of financial terms and payment of the required deposit.
- The first term is probationary for the school and for parents; if it is not working out for any reason the child can leave or be asked to leave without giving notice.
- Thereafter, a term's notice is required or a term's fees in lieu of notice.
- During the probationary term, parents should be in regular contact with the Class Teacher to find out if there are any problems and if the child is settling well.
- Half way through the term, the Class Teacher will discuss the child's progress with the other teachers. If there is any question about the child continuing in the school, the parents will be informed and consulted at this stage.
- A decision will be made before the end of the probationary period, and parents will be informed in good time.
- The decision may be any of the following:
 - The child is accepted.
 - The child is not accepted.
 - The child is accepted with conditions – e.g. extra lessons, seeing the doctor, eurythmy therapy.
 - The child is given a further term's probation. (Probation can be extended up to three times after which a final decision must be made.)
- If a child is not accepted, the parents will be given the opportunity to discuss the reasons for the decision and an agreement should be reached about when and how to tell the child.

Finance

The school's fee structure was reviewed during the last academic year, after a consultation period and many discussions in the College. The thinking behind the restructuring addresses several issues:

We try to develop in the children a feeling of responsibility and care for the whole community - the whole world in fact - and a wish to help others who are less fortunate. We believe we should also model that in the way we run and fund the school. Our ethos is not exclusive, and a school community made up of people with a wide range of incomes creates a healthier environment for the children. It is in everyone's interests that we make it possible for people who don't have so much money to come to the school.

We believe that fees should be charged per family, because having more children does not mean that parents are able to contribute more, but having more children in the school benefits everyone, and we want to make it possible for large families to send all of their children to the school. We have found that children who have siblings in other schools often think they have been sent to our school because there is something wrong with them, and this affects their self-esteem and their attitude to the school, and also perpetuates the idea some people have that ours is a special school for children with learning difficulties.

We also recognise that parents with small children have less 'earning power' than those with older children, and this has to be taken into account. Apart from this, there are no sound reasons for charging different fees in each class as we do under the current system; it does not cost more to educate a child in Class 4 than it does a child in Class 2, for example.

Perhaps the most important concern for us is to dispel the idea that we are selling education. Our aim is to offer the best possible education, based on a particular understanding of child development. To that end, we are committed to putting in the necessary work to make this vision a reality; we are not paid according to the number of hours or lessons we teach or the number of years' experience we have. In order that we can offer this to you, we need enough money to live while we devote ourselves to this task.

In order to offer the best possible education, we must continue to attract the best teachers, and we will not be able to do that unless we can pay them a proper salary. Living costs in London are higher than in other parts of the country, and staffing costs represent more than half of our annual budget. We also need to be able to develop and maintain the school building, grounds and facilities.

With all of these things in mind, what we have introduced this year is a transitional plan that will lead us eventually to the point where we can charge a flat fee per family, regardless of the number of children they have. In order to get there, we will need to have more families in the school, and we hope this transitional structure will help.

Finally, You will see in the structure that there are two 'Family Fee' rates. We hope very much that people who can afford to will choose to pay the higher rate. This will not be means tested, and is paid entirely at each family's discretion.

The new fees, and a revised fee policy, apply from September 2017.

Fee Assistance is available on application, according to the school's policy, which is in the Parents' handbook and on the school website.

The fee per family is composed of 3 parts:

1. A flat fee, payable by each family, regardless of class*
2. A fee per child for the first two children in the family, regardless of class*
3. A fee for operational costs and materials per child, according to class*

These 3 parts added together comes to what will be payable for each family.

**These elements are charged pro-rata for part-time Kindergarten children*

Breakdown of annual fees for 2017/2018

Flat fee, payable per family:	£3,100(lower rate) £9,500(full rate)♦
Fee per child for first and second child in the family:	£3,100
Fee per child for third (+) child in the family:☆	£0
Operational and Materials charge per child:	Kindergarten:£750
	Classes 1 - 4: £2,500
	Classes 5 - 8: £3,500
	Classes 9 - 12: £4,500

♦*There are two 'Family Fee' rates. This is not means tested, and its payment is entirely at each family's discretion. If parents would like to contribute more than the reduced rate, but can't quite afford the full rate, extra contributions of any amount will be gratefully received.*

☆ *This rate will apply only when all of the family's school age children are in the school.*

Totals	Per term	Per year
Family Fee per family:		
Full Rate	£3,167	£9,500
Reduced Rate	£1,034	£3,100
Additional Fee + Operational and Materials charge payable per child:		
Class 9 -12 oldest/only child	£2,534	£7,600
Class 9 -12 1st younger sibling	£2,534	£7,600
Class 9 - 12 3rd/4th etc. sibling	£1,500	£4,500
Class 5 - 8 oldest/only child	£2,200	£6,600
Class 5 - 8 1st younger sibling	£2,200	£6,600
Class 5 - 8 3rd/4th etc. sibling	£1,167	£3,500
Class 1 - 4 oldest/only child	£1,867	£5,600
Class 1 - 4 1st younger sibling	£1,867	£5,600
Class 1 - 4 3rd/4th etc. sibling	£834	£2,500
Full Time Kindergarten oldest/only child*	£1,284	£3,850
Full Time Kindergarten 1st younger sibling*	£1,284	£3,850
Full Time Kindergarten 3rd/4th etc. sibling*	£250	£750
Afternoon Care for Kindergarten children £17 per session. Parent & Child/Baby groups £6 per family per session (drop in)/£30 per half term (booked)		
* Part Time Kindergarten fees are calculated individually on a pro rata basis		

Examples:

1. **A family with one child in Class 2 and another in Kindergarten** would pay:

Family Fee + Class 1 - 4 oldest/only child fee + Full Time Kindergarten 1st younger sibling fee, i.e. either:

£3,100 + £5,600 + £3,850 **Total: £12,550**

or, if they chose to pay the higher Family Fee:

£9,500 + £5,600 + £3,850 **Total: £18,950**

2. **A family with one child in Class 4, one in Class 8 and another in Class 10** would pay:

Family Fee + Class 9 -12 oldest/only child fee + Class 5 - 8 1st younger sibling fee + Class 1 - 4 3rd/4th etc. sibling fee, i.e. either:

£3,100 + £7,600 + £6,600 + £2,500 **Total: £19,800**

or, if they chose to pay the higher Family Fee:

£9,500 + £7,600 + £6,600 + £2,500 **Total: £26,200**

3. **A family with one child in Kindergarten attending 3 days a week** would pay:

Family Fee + 60% of Full Time Kindergarten oldest/only child fee, i.e. either:

£3,100 + £2,310 **Total: £5,410**

or, if they chose to pay the higher Family Fee:

£9,500 + £2,310 **Total: £11,810**

Payment

- Tuition charges can be paid in full at the beginning of the year or for each term at the beginning of the relevant term or by monthly instalments.
- Monthly instalments must be paid by standing order mandate.
- Withdrawal of a child requires one full term's notice or the payment of a full term's fees.

Possible extra costs

- School trips
- Items that the child will keep, such as eurythmy shoes, books, recorders, compasses.
- Learning support and after-school activities

Fee Assistance

- Fee assistance is available on application to the Bursar at:
bursar@stmichaelsteiner.hounslow.sch.uk
- The closing date for applications for 2018/2019 will be announced shortly after Christmas. Fee assistance may be available after this date if all designated funds have not been allocated.

Recommended Reading List

Books on Steiner Waldorf Education

Waldorf Education, C. Clouder and Martyn Rawson; Floris Books

School as a Journey, Torin Finser; Hawthorn Press

Early Childhood

You are your Child's First Teacher, Rahima Baldwin; Celestial Arts, California

A Guide to Child Health, M. Glocker and W. Goebel; Floris Books

The Genius of Play, Sally Jenkinson; Hawthorn Press

Well, I Wonder: Childhood in the Modern World. Sally Schweizer, Sophia Books

Practical Activities and Festivals

All Year Round, A. Druitt, C. Fynes-Clinton, M. Rowling; Hawthorn Press

The Children's Year, C. Fynes-Clinton, M. Rowling, S. Cooper; Hawthorn Press

Lifestyle and Child Development

Phases of Child Development, B. Lievegoed; Floris Books

Who's Bringing them Up?, M. Large; Hawthorn Press

Ready to Learn, M. Rawson, M. Rose; Hawthorn Press

Free your Child's True Potential, M. Rawson; Hodder & Stoughton

Books by Rudolf Steiner

Waldorf Education and Anthroposophy; Anthroposophic Press

The Spirit of the Waldorf School; Anthroposophic Press