

The St Michael Steiner School

The School Health and Development Advisor Procedure

The school has an anthroposophical health and development advisor, Jenny Josephson, who visits the school once a term. Once a year she is accompanied by Dr. Francisco Barcello, who has a great deal of experience and insight in working with children with behavioural and learning difficulties. She can see five children, chosen by the teachers, on each visit and nine when she comes with Dr. Barcello. They advise teachers from an educational point of view and may suggest remedies, pedagogical exercises and therapies to help with many different problems.

Consent

Consent for children to see the health and development advisor is given on the general consent form which parents sign when they join the school. Occasionally parents may withhold consent; Class Teachers should be aware of this and discuss it with them to reassure them and make them aware of how helpful the advisors' input is for us and for the children. Ultimately, however, we have to accept the parents' decision.

Procedure

Class Teachers who would like their children to see the health and development advisor should submit a request to the College via the relevant staff meeting, and the College will mandate someone to draw up a list.

The list must be finalised at least 2 weeks before the visit to give teachers time to write reports and for them to be delivered.

Parents of the pupils to be seen should be notified in writing at least a week before the visit. It is the Class Teacher's responsibility to ensure that this is done in each case, but the receptionist may actually do it, using a standard letter.

Parents also need to be told whether or not they will be expected to meet with the advisor themselves. This is usual, except for Class 1 readiness visits in May, and when Dr. Barcello comes.

The College will mandate someone to organise a space and to liaise with teachers to arrange the order in which children will be seen.

Class 1 Readiness

All children who turn six during the current academic year will be seen by the health and development advisor in the summer term as part of the procedure to determine whether or not they are ready to go into Class 1 in September.

Next review date: July 2024