



Steiner Waldorf schools value and promote diversity, social justice and equity

This statement expresses values and positions held by the European Council of Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) and its national member associations that represent Steiner Waldorf schools and their educational institutions.

ECSWE and its members are guided by the principles of respect for human and fundamental rights as enshrined in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and the [European Charter of Fundamental Rights](#). We align ourselves with the European Union's values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law, and human rights and aim to contribute to a society founded upon solidarity, mutual respect, tolerance, and cooperation between all people.

One of the [Generative Principles of Steiner Waldorf Education](#) is that it “*promotes social justice and equity. It has a strong ethic of care and emphasises the importance of relationships both within the school but also with families and the wider community: learning is about relating to the other and the world.*” This means the Steiner Waldorf curriculum includes intercultural competences and that the schools strive to live the values expressed in this statement.

ECSWE and its members strive to be inclusive and regard all people as equal in dignity, regardless of their age, gender, ability, race, colour, wealth, ethnic or social origin, language, religion or belief, nationality, worldview or sexual orientation. We are committed to identifying and challenging any form of racism or discrimination against individuals or institutional racism within our educational institutions, including leadership, teachers and other staff, parents, students, and within the curriculum. This includes being vigilant against any attempts to misappropriate Steiner Waldorf education or its institutions for racist or xenophobic purposes.

While ECSWE deeply respects the contributions of Rudolf Steiner to education and pedagogy, ECSWE distances itself from any statements or perspectives in Steiner's work that can be understood as racist or discriminatory in any way. Such views have no place in the philosophy or practice of Steiner Waldorf education, which acknowledges diversity and is fundamentally committed to the ideals of equality, respect, and unity among all human beings.

Brussels, 10 March 2025