

“RECEIVE THE CHILDREN IN REVERENCE, EDUCATE THEM IN LOVE,  
SEND THEM FORTH IN FREEDOM”  
-RUDOLF STEINER

# PROSPECTUS





## WELCOME

Your child's school experience will shape life for many years to come, so choosing the right school is an important decision. Our school has a lot to offer and we hope this prospectus will provide a useful introduction and overview.

## WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT NANT-Y-CWM?

Visitors to Nant-Y-Cwm comment on the warmth, stillness, vitality and sense of wellbeing that they feel. Through our work with the children, supporting and guiding them as they begin a life-long love of learning, we foster these qualities so that each child can identify, explore and develop their personal strengths. Nant-y-Cwm is very much a community school, developing well-rounded and balanced individuals who are able to think creatively, act with integrity, and be prepared for the challenges in life.

Steiner education is a comprehensive and inspiring journey. The curriculum promotes self-confidence, preparing pupils to cope with the uncertainties of teenage and adult life. This is approached through a balanced combination of practical, artistic and academic skills.





## INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1979 by a group of likeminded parents, Nant-y-Cwm is one of over 1000 Steiner Waldorf schools, which form the largest independent educational movement in the world. We offer an education which is designed to work with the whole child at each stage of development. We lay great emphasis on a creative approach to all subjects. A Steiner Education at Nant-y-Cwm is fully comprehensive, and enables our pupils to integrate into further education and life as confident and informed individuals.

Our school is located on the banks of the Easters Cleddau River, in a Victorian school building that has been beautifully renovated and extended by parents, teachers and friends. Gardens, orchards, fields and woodland surround it, while our purpose-built Kindergarten provides a unique space for children's imagination to grow. Adjacent is Llwyn Dyfrion Community Woodland, where the children play, picnic, celebrate and explore the natural world.



## STEINER EDUCATION

Steiner education is based on the work of Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher, social reformer and architect. In 1919 he established a school in Germany, in a building called Waldorf-Astoria, and that is where the name Waldorf comes from.

Steiner Waldorf Education seeks to:

- Take account of the needs of the whole child, academic, physical, emotional and spiritual.
- Respond specifically to the different stages of childhood.
- Develop a love of learning and an enthusiasm for school
- See artistic activity and the development of the imagination as integral to learning.
- Support young people in developing a strong sense of self, as well as the capacity to become socially and economically responsible individuals.



**"OUR HIGHEST ENDEAVOUR MUST BE TO DEVELOP FREE HUMAN BEINGS, WHO ARE ABLE OF THEMSELVES TO IMPART PURPOSE AND DIRECTIONS TO THEIR LIVES."**

**- RUDOLF STEINER**

## THE EARLY YEARS OF CHILDHOOD

Family Group – from birth to three

Attending family group is often the first time that families encounter the beauty and joy that permeates the whole of Steiner Education. We have small groups, allowing each child to find, at their own pace, the confidence to explore the world around them. Parents find calm, support, friendship, humour and inspiration from both the group leader and each other. Sharing their parenting journey whilst creating freshly baked bread and hand crafts.

## IMITATION, IMAGINATION AND ACTION

Nant-y-Cwm Kindergarten is a beautiful space, where the children can feel the love and security of our extended family. Imaginative play has a very important role in a child's development and forms a major part of the kindergarten day. We work with a strong rhythm that remains the same from day to day and week to week, from season to season and year to year. The rhythm becomes deeply rooted in the children, allowing them to know what each day will bring.

The children learn through imitation: the teachers take on domestic and artistic tasks which inspire the children to join in. They enjoy the natural toys made from wool, wood, cotton and silk, which feed the imagination and nourishes the senses.



The children use their imaginations to build, play, organise, paint, draw, create and much more. Outside they run, climb, skip, dig, hide, walk, splash, sweep, watch the beetle as he crawls along the wall... The concentration they show in these activities is the beginning of a deep-seated reverence for the natural world as well as a love of learning. Our seasonal songs, rhymes, stories and celebration of festivals support the rhythms and reflect the turning of the year.

In Kindergarten we provide wholesome vegetarian food with mainly local organic and fairtrade produce. Children are encouraged to bring in fruit and vegetables to make the crumble, soup and bakes that we share.



## **MAIN SCHOOL**

Children may join Kindergarten from age 3, until they move to “Big school” at around age 6. There, the work of a class teacher – who will stay with the class for up to eight years – is to hold the children as a family, caring for their individual needs, whilst also considering the group as a whole. This builds a sense of community throughout the school.

## **THE WALDORF CURRICULUM**

The natural rhythm of the morning starts with a morning verse, followed by ring time (which includes music and poetry) and then the main lesson starts. In main lesson the children focus on a subject for several weeks and the intensity with which subjects are studied enables children to really breathe the subject into their hearts. Building from one main lesson to the next, children form a complete picture. The subjects chosen for study with each age group – from the imaginative world of the 7 year old, to 14 year olds studying anatomy, astronomy and physics – are developed from the work of Rudolf Steiner and the teachers of the first Waldorf school. They are taught by appealing to the creativity of the child, with drawings, practical activities and painting as well as written work.

## **SUBJECT LESSONS**

The second part of the morning and the afternoon the children have subject lessons. At Nant-y-Cwm we provide a range of subject lessons from the academic: French, music, English and maths, to the practical: gardening, woodwork, handwork, games, gymnastics and the artistic: painting, drama, clay modelling and drawing. Again these are taught in an artistic, holistic and imaginative manner.

French is taught from Class 1 to Class 8. In Classes 1 – 3, this is achieved through games, poetry and song which actively and playfully involve children in language. Writing, reading and formal grammar are introduced from Class 4. In music all children learn the pentatonic pipe and the recorder through imitation and develop a musical ear before learning formal music notation. Handwork works on the children from the fingers to the brain, developing important neural pathways. In class 1 the children learn to knit and make soft animals, this continues further into dolls and socks. Crochet is taught in Class 2 and children in Class 4 start sewing with cross stitch.



## KINDERGARTEN

Before being formally admitted to the kindergarten or school, you will be asked to complete an application form. Your child may have a trial day, and the parents then take part in an interview with the appropriate teacher. Our hope is that with this both you have a clear understanding of what we offer at Nant-y-Cwm, and that we also feel that we are able to meet your child's needs. We hope to be able to answer any questions you may still have, and also to discuss the financial and time contributions from families that we need to run and maintain our lovely school.

## MAIN SCHOOL

The school itself takes children from age 6 or 7 to age 14, in classes numbered 1 to 8. Because we are a small school we operate a doubled-class system; thus in one year we will have classes 1/2, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, and the following year we will have classes 1 2/3, 4/5, 6/7. Our experience has shown that there are numerous benefits in this system. Younger children may look up to older role-models, while the older group learns to take the responsibility of providing an example for the younger ones.

Please contact the office with any questions and for more information, Mondays – Fridays 9am – 1pm.

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