



The natural place to start - Te wāhi turoa ki te tīmata

## *Parent Handbook*

Nau mai, haere mai  
Welcome to Rose Ring Kindergarten

Learning in time, over time  
Learning together and from each other  
Learning with head, heart and hands  
Learning from life, for life

### Useful contact details:

Reception/office: [reception@waldorftga.nz](mailto:reception@waldorftga.nz)

Waldorf Schools (Bay of Plenty) Trust: [wst@waldorftga.nz](mailto:wst@waldorftga.nz)

Summer Rose: [summerrose@waldorftga.nz](mailto:summerrose@waldorftga.nz)

Spring Rose: [springrose@waldorftga.nz](mailto:springrose@waldorftga.nz)

Autumn Rose: [autumnrose@waldorftga.nz](mailto:autumnrose@waldorftga.nz)

Kotahi: [kotahi@waldorftga.nz](mailto:kotahi@waldorftga.nz)

Kindergarten Manager: [kindergartenadmin@waldorftga.nz](mailto:kindergartenadmin@waldorftga.nz)

Pledge Manager: [pledges@waldorftga.nz](mailto:pledges@waldorftga.nz)

**[www.waldorftga.nz](http://www.waldorftga.nz)**

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## Welcome to Rose Ring Kindergartens

Rose Ring Kindergartens provides a joyful and meaningful early childhood learning experience for both you and your child. This guide will help you support your child to settle in and receive the Waldorf early childhood education you have chosen for them.

We have four classes (Summer Rose, Spring Rose, Autumn Rose and Kotahi), each run by two registered teachers. There are up to 20 children enrolled per Kindergarten class and 10 children in Kotahi. The classrooms are set up with indoor space for play and rest, with a kitchen, deck, and an art space, surrounded by established gardens where children work and play together, where they wonder, discover, imitate and create.



### ***The Tauranga Waldorf School Journey From Playgroup through to School***

#### **Rosebud Playgroup**

The Rosebud Playgroup offers a gentle rhythm for young babies and children, using natural resources within a warm and nurturing environment. This is where parents can introduce themselves to Waldorf education and support each other along the way. Parents are encouraged to quietly work around the children, prepare morning tea or become involved in craft. Playgroup can be one of the pathways into Rose Ring Kindergarten.

Playgroups meet term time, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am - 12pm. Please check our website for further information, or email [rosebud@waldorftga.nz](mailto:rosebud@waldorftga.nz)

#### *→ Transition from Playgroup to Kotahi*

Children can move from Rosebud Playgroup into Kotahi between 3 and 3.5 years. Parents need to attend an information afternoon and have their child on the Kindergarten waiting list.

#### **Kotahi**

When your child is about 3 years old and ready to leave the parental fold, they can start attending Kotahi for a couple of days a week. Full weeks may be available on request.

#### *→ Transition from Kotahi to Kindergarten*

Your child can move from Kotahi into Kindergarten when they have outgrown Kotahi. Once a space is available in one of the kindergartens and the Kotahi teacher has indicated your child is ready for Kindergarten, we'll sit down and discuss the best way for your child to transition.

#### **Kindergarten**

By about 4 years old, children have attained social and emotional skills that indicate readiness for a bigger social group, like our mixed age kindergarten rooms. Families who are new to Kindergarten (and haven't attended Kotahi) can spend time in the classroom with their child during the transition to help

them become familiar with the teacher, the children and the environment. This time varies for every family depending on their child's needs, as well as the class needs, and will be discussed with parents at the enrolment interview. Children transitioning from Kotahi will be supported by their Kotahi teacher.

→ *Transition from Kindergarten on to the School roll*

In the year your child turns 6 or 7 (depending on readiness), they will go to Te Arakura in Term 4 (more information below). Then they'll move to Class 1 in the first term of the following year.

**Helpful things to know:**

- When your child turns 6, they will officially be on the school roll, whether they have transitioned to Te Arakura or not, as per our agreement with the Ministry of Education.
- You're welcome to talk to your teachers about any concerns or expectations you have regarding the transition to School.
- Six year old children and children about to turn 6 before the end of the year, will take part in a Class 1 Readiness Assessment with the principal in Term 3. Your teachers will make a recommendation with regard to your child starting School the following year and you can decide on a course of action.
- Throughout Term 3, parents of transitioning children are invited to attend information evenings regarding School readiness and the upcoming Te Arakura programme.

**Te Arakura**

Te Arakura is an outdoor transition programme for children moving from Kindergarten to School. It's held in the last term of a child's final year at Kindergarten and located around the farm, bush and wetlands at the southern end of the School. Te Arakura allows children to experience risk-taking, socially and physically. This further develops their motor skills and hand eye coordination. Children gain a sense of achievement in creating things individually and as a group, their social learning is enhanced through gaining an appreciation for each other, and they build a resilient, united Class 1 group ready for their first year at School.

Activities may include using saws, hammers, and drills to create, imaginative play, storytelling and group activities, such as cooking on fire.

# School Map

- Administration
  - Kotahi
  - Spring Rose
  - Autumn Rose
  - Summer Rose
  - Rosebud Playgroup/Cowshed
  - Class 1
  - Class 2
  - Class 3
  - Chalet
  - Kauri Class 5
  - Kauri Class 4
  - Tuapiro Class 6
  - Tuapiro Class 7
  - Whare
  - Yurt
  - Micheal Hut
- Ⓣ Toilets



The Natural Place to Start  
 akoranga

Te ao turoa o te



## ***Our Learning Curriculum and Special Character***

### **Rose Ring Kindergarten Curriculum**

We believe in protecting and celebrating childhood at Rose Ring Kindergartens. Your child will experience active, experiential, self-initiated learning in a meaningful way through work and play, learning from each other, from life, for life.

Nurturing the social, emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual development of each child, we offer a cycle of curriculum learning rhythms - daily, weekly, seasonally and annually. Our curriculum learning is informed by Te Whariki, the national early childhood curriculum, which ensures we are delivering a bicultural curriculum in the Kindergarten. The rhythms at Kindergarten are carefully designed to create a secure and familiar learning environment where children can gradually build a sense of themselves as competent, confident learners, communicators and contributors. A place where they can “develop working theories for making sense of the natural, social, physical and material worlds” (Te Whariki).

The daily rhythm includes an inside play time, the preparation, serving, blessing and eating of food, a morning circle, and outside play time and story time. The Kindergarten week also has a rhythm, painting, gardening, drawing, modelling, domestic routines, baking and handcraft. In the first three terms of the year, Summer, Spring and Autumn Rose kindergartens have ‘Farm Day’ once a week, where the class spends the whole day at the farm at the southern end of the School. Parents are required to provide a lunchbox for their child on this day.

### ***Educating through the head, heart and hands***



When children first start kindergarten **at the age of 3** they have developed their first sense of self and are ready to engage in make believe or fantasy play.

**At around 4 years** of age play becomes purposeful; houses, vehicles and family based games are created, group play develops.

**At around 5 years** of age the ability to plan ahead begins and games that are created can be carried over several days.



**Around 6 years** of age the development of imagination begins and the child is now able to create internal images, this is a signal of readiness to move on from Kindergarten to Class 1. This is when they are ready to start the education of heart learning through imagination.

## Our Special Character

*“The school delivers rich cycles of connected learning experiences with an intention to support children to create connections with community, the natural world and to the spiritual values of reverence, wonder and gratitude.”*

The Tauranga Waldorf School is an Integrated Special Character School, which means it offers a wide range of learning experiences only found at Waldorf kindergartens and schools.

On your child's 6th birthday they are eligible to be enrolled in the Tauranga Waldorf School. Before your child goes on the School roll, you'll need to show your preference for the special character of Waldorf education. Over your Kindergarten journey, this involves:

- Participating in all aspects of the special character learning programmes, including extracurricular events
- Attending class parent meetings to learn more about the special character of the School
- Supporting teachers to deliver a range of festivals and contribute to the annual School fair
- Keeping up to date with School communications
- Attending Special Character Talks (which you will be invited to before your child turns 6)
- Making a voluntary financial contribution, or pledge, which supports not only your child's learning, but allows future children to have a Waldorf Education and for Waldorf Education to thrive in New Zealand (see Pledge information on page 16).

### Biculturalism

Tauranga Waldorf School shares many of its values and principles with other cultures, including Te Ao Māori. We strive to ensure the Waldorf curriculum echoes all of our diversity and emphasis is placed on meeting the needs of all children irrespective of religion, culture or physicality.

Tauranga Waldorf School has a strong commitment to ensuring Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) is reflected throughout the fabric of the Kindergarten. Teachers incorporate te reo, waiata and tikanga Māori practices, including resources, into children's learning experiences.

Kindergarten teachers build and maintain warm and collaborative relationships with whānau, colleagues and children. They use whakapapa and whanaungatanga to inform the Kindergarten programme, planning and assessment - and are committed to building their knowledge and understanding of the local iwi, hapu and their stories.

### Festivals

Waldorf Education, and the Māori world view, believes human beings are physical as well as spiritual beings and therefore a spiritual education is integral to our curriculum. While we don't have particular religious affiliations, we do have an active spiritual life in the Kindergarten and School, and our community sees our calendar of festivals as a magical and uplifting aspect to their child's life journey. Some festivals are only for Kindergarten children and others parents can attend. Festival newsletters are sent to all parents in advance so they know what to expect and how to support their children.



## ***Who's who at Tauranga Waldorf School and Kindergarten***

### **How are Kindergarten staff structured?**

Rose Ring Kindergarten teachers work collaboratively under supervision of the management. The two registered teachers in each Kindergarten room work together to operate and organise the Kindergarten class to support children in their learning. The Kindergarten Coordinator ensures the Kindergarten is managed effectively and compliantly and looks after enquiries, the waiting list and enrolments.

### **What is the role of Parent Liaison?**

The role involves liaising between (and supporting) parents and teachers to facilitate constructive, healthy communication. It involves working to create a class / parent culture that supports the learning and wellbeing of all the children. If you're interested in finding out more, please ask for the Parent Liaison Job Description or talk to your Kindergarten teacher.

### **What is the role of the Waldorf School Trust?**

The Waldorf Schools Trust (WST) is a charitable trust, holds the Kindergarten's license and receives parent donations to enable the special character of the School to be implemented by the teaching staff. It is also responsible for the governance of the Kindergarten. The Trust is the proprietor of the land and buildings and is responsible for capital developments and the future development of the School site in consultation with the Board of Trustees and School management. The Trust was set up to enable the provision of Waldorf Education in the Bay of Plenty and supports the Kindergarten and School to carry the anthroposophical impulse through all its activities.

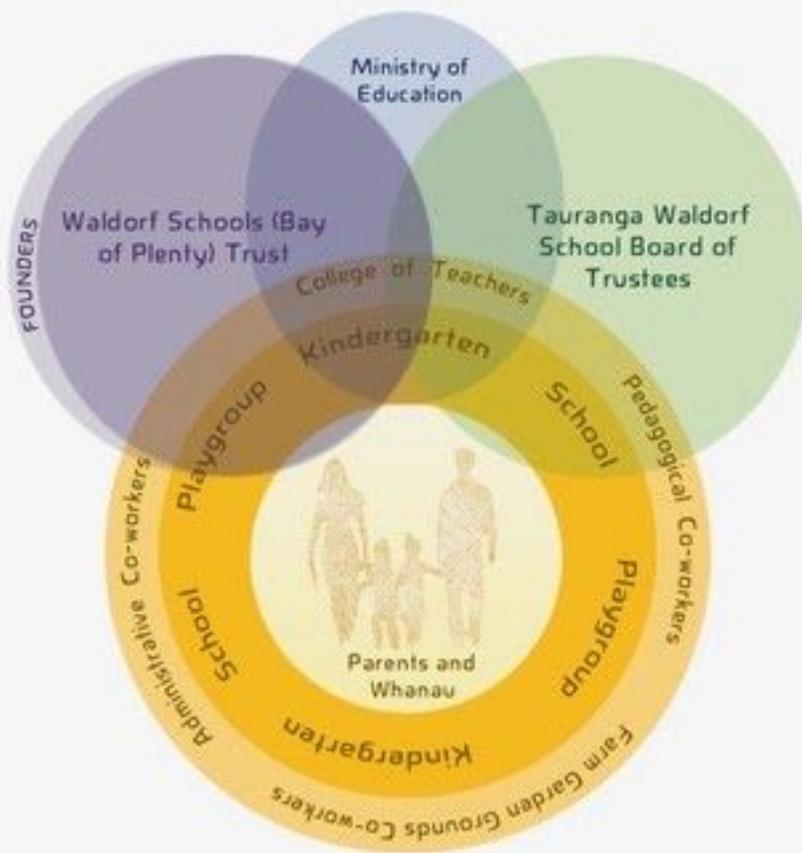
### **What is the role of the Board of Trustees?**

Tauranga Waldorf School is governed by an elected body of parent and teacher representatives. The Board also consists of appointees of our Proprietors, The Waldorf Schools (Bay of Plenty) Trust and the Principal. The Board meets at least eight times a year. **Please note:** The BOT is the governing body of the School (not the Kindergarten), which means it is responsible for the 6 year olds but delegates the education of the 6 year olds to the Kindergarten, which is governed by the Waldorf Schools Trust.

### **What is the role of the College of Teachers?**

The College of Teachers, made up of Kindergarten and School teachers, works as a team with the Principal as pedagogical adviser to share the responsibility for all matters concerning the life of the School. The teachers at Tauranga Waldorf School and Rose Ring Kindergarten are deeply committed to the development and education of each child's potential.

# GOVERNING BODIES ROSE RING KINDERGARTEN and TAURANGA WALDORF SCHOOL



# Everything you need to know before starting Kindergarten

## Kindergarten Hours and Terms

**Kindergarten hours:** 9am - 3pm

**Main school office hours:** 8:30am - 3:30pm

**Terms:** There are four terms in the School year. A calendar of term dates and School events can be found on our website.

**School holidays:** While children are often ready for a break in the school holidays, we offer Rambling Rose, an outdoor farm-based programme, for those who need it. This is usually a small group of children from each room. Different teachers are rostered on each day, from 9am until 3pm, and children need to bring their own food for the day.

**Before and after school care:** OSCAR before and after School care is available from 7.30am until 5.30pm for children over 5. Please check our website for current fees and enrolment procedures. Families can apply for a WINZ subsidy.

### Punctuality

Please make sure your children arrive at Kindergarten on time, so they are in their classroom ready to start the day at 9am. Arriving on time encourages a child's feeling of belonging and participation. While we understand there are appointments and commitments that may require you to collect your child earlier than 3pm, please keep in mind that arriving and collecting on time maintains the class rhythm. There is a charge for children collected late.

### Absenteeism

Please let the Office know before 9am if your child will be absent or late, by email, phone, text (027 513 3304) or sending a message via the School App (info on page 21). Each day at around 9:15am, the teachers notify the Office of the day's absentees and if the Office hasn't been contacted by a parent or caregiver they will contact you to check on your child. If you have a planned absence for your child, please complete a slip at the office and have it signed by the Kindergarten teacher.

For children aged 6 and 7 still attending Kindergarten, the Ministry of Education School policy applies. It states that any day out of School, other than for sickness or bereavement, is seen as unjustified and the School can not give permission for that. For more information, visit [www.moe.govt.nz](http://www.moe.govt.nz).

### Longer absences

A holding fee of \$250 p/w applies if a child is absent for more than three consecutive weeks, excluding our shutdown period over Christmas and New Years.



## ***Transitioning and settling into Kindergarten***

### **When I drop my children off, what do I do?**

- There is parking available on-site and we ask you to hold your child by the hand and walk them up to the Kindergarten. If you have a young baby you are welcome to use the signposted visitors/baby park outside the Cowshed entrance.
- To develop a sense of responsibility, please let your child carry their own bag. If they're finding it too heavy, check it's the right size, comfortable for them and that the straps are adjusted to fit.
- Please shut all gates behind you at all times to keep children safe.
- All children must be signed in and out each day, using the form outside the classroom, by a parent or adult authorised to drop them off and pick them up. Please email or give us written permission if someone other than you will be dropping off/collecting them.
- Encourage your child to put their fruit in the bowl, hang up their coat and bag, and change from shoes to slippers.
- You can leave their gumboots and jackets on the hook overnight for the next day as long as they are dry.
- Kindergarten teachers will welcome your child into the classroom when it is time to enter their special learning space for the day. We ask parents not to come into the classroom, except for their child's birthday story (more info below), so as not to disturb the children who are relaxed and engaged deeply in play.
- Please be 100% present for your child at drop off and pick up. The best place to chat with other parents is outside the Cowshed rather than on the classroom deck. You're also welcome to join other parents for morning verse, singing and a cup of tea in the Cowshed yard.

### **What to bring**

- Two pieces of fruit (or vegetables that can be eaten raw ie: carrot, capsicum)
- Full brim hat, shoes (no jandals), gumboots, rain pants, rain coat
- School bag, plain colouring
- A change of clothing (named please)
- No singlets, tops must cover the shoulders
- A named drink bottle with water in it (no juice)
- You're welcome to bring sunscreen for your child in summer if they need a second application during the day. Please name it and give it to your teacher to apply. Please be aware that applying different sunscreens to 20 children and washing hands in between can take a long time so it helps us if you can apply in the morning and provide clothes that protect their skin from the sun.
- Any/all medication for your child needs to be labelled with their name and the expiry date and given to the teacher in the morning, not kept in the child's bag. Some medication requires a form to be filled out (your teacher will let you know).

### **What not to bring**

- Children's own toys must be kept at home because they can get lost or sometimes stimulate undesirable play. Birthday gifts from Kindergarten teachers (which vary for the different ages and across the different kindergartens) are welcome at Kindergarten, but they can also get lost from time to time.
- While we love animals, please don't bring dogs onto the school grounds.
- Please leave your cellphone in the car or out of sight while dropping and collecting your child.
- No snacks in the child's bag (unless it's part of their lunchbox on Farm Day). If you have a long trip home or want to provide extra food if your child is carpooling, please let the teachers know to avoid secret snacking.
- No jewellery, with the exception of one small stud in each ear.
- Please note: Tauranga Waldorf School is 100% smoke-free.

### Meals and food

- We provide a fresh, healthy, vegetarian lunch for the children every day (except Farm Day).
- Morning and afternoon tea is a collection of fruit and vegetables brought in by the children.
- Please provide lunch boxes (including morning and afternoon tea) for the weekly Farm Day. Ideally lunch boxes are packed with highly nutritional food and free of colouring and additives. Please pack landfill-free food and no party food such as potato chips, sweets, soft drinks or energy drinks.
- The Kindergarten is currently peanut-free.

### Birthdays

In Summer Rose, Autumn Rose and Spring Rose, we celebrate each child's birthday with a special story and you are welcome to attend and provide a healthy treat for the children on that day. Some children have food intolerances so please let us know what you plan to bring so we can let parents know if they need to provide an alternative. Your teacher will talk to you before your child's birthday about a suitable date and what to expect. Because little ones can find a lot of attention overwhelming, Kotahi celebrates birthdays (without parents) only if the child's birthday falls on their kindy day.

### Sleeping

To support individual children's rhythms and sleeping routines, children can rest or sleep at Kindergarten at certain times of the day. Please talk to your child's teacher about your child's sleep needs.

### Visitors in the classroom

We completely understand that prospective parents, and parents of our enrolled children, would love to see the classroom in action. And we often have moments we wish we could share with our families. However, when people enter the classroom, the play changes (sometimes drastically), which is why teachers are quite protective of their 'flock' and want to keep interruptions to a minimum.

### Behaviour and Dress Expectations

- Clothing needs to be tidy, comfortable, plain and season appropriate: warm in winter and covered from the sun in summer. **Please note:** Children need to be warm in order to learn. Being cold affects their development and ability to function. Until the age of 7, children will always feel warm (unless on the verge of hypothermia!) because they are living in the present. If your child resists clothing, pack the warm layers in their bag and speak to your teacher who will ensure your child is dressed appropriately.
- Please wear plain clothing with no motifs, pictures or labelling as they can be distracting. Logos smaller than the palm of a hand are okay.

- Natural fabrics are preferable to synthetic as they allow bodies to breathe and regulate temperature.
- No black clothing please, except gumboots.
- Children need to bring a hat at all times. Sunhats (not caps) in summer and woollen hats in winter and both in between seasons.
- Sturdy, comfortable and season appropriate shoes are to be worn at all times while outdoors, and soft sole slippers are worn indoors in the winter (which can be purchased for \$6 from outside Summer Rose Kindergarten)
- Backless shoes, high heels, and jandals are not appropriate as they limit children's freedom to move.
- No hair dye or extreme hairstyles such as dreadlocks, mohawks and shaved heads. Hair falling into faces needs to be tied back to allow children to play comfortably.
- No nail polish, jewellery or body piercings with the exception of one small stud in each ear.
- No perfume, strong laundry powder or makeup please.

### **Challenging Behaviour**

At Kindergarten, our goal is:

- To provide a positive, nurturing physical and emotional environment, where each child's holistic development is nurtured.
- To ensure consistent strategies are in place for allowing children to develop an understanding of positive behaviours for learning through experience.
- To ensure children develop strategies and confidence in conflict resolution.

The Tauranga Waldorf School does not tolerate bullying. Children are encouraged to inform an adult immediately if they are suffering or are aware that somebody else is suffering. Teachers work with creative acts of redemption, helping the child to make amends.

If your child tells you about an unpleasant situation they experienced, acknowledge what they have told you in a warm way and remind your child they can always ask their teacher for help. We encourage parents to check in with the Kindergarten teacher to ensure they have the full story, gauge how serious the situation is, and work out what can be done to better support the child.

If you have concerns regarding your child, please write them down, hand them to your child's teacher and ask them to contact you or make an appointment when they are free. The children's wellbeing is a teachers' first and foremost concern. Because our approach has a social learning focus, it is important to communicate insights and concerns, so the teacher is fully informed of your child's needs. They will always make time to discuss any concerns you have and how they can help resolve them.



## ***Health and Safety***

**Hearing and vision:** All children aged 4 are eligible, with parental permission, to receive the before school check by a public health nurse, carried out at Kindergarten. This includes vision and hearing tests and a tympanogram if needed (which checks for glue ear). If there is a problem with one or more of these tests, the child will be rechecked at the next visit and/or referred to the appropriate specialist.

**Dental:** The Tauranga Intermediate Dental Clinic services our Kindergarten and School. If you'd like to book an appointment, please phone 07 5783 070.

**Sickness:** If your child shows signs of illness while at Kindergarten, we will call and ask you to collect them. If your child has been diagnosed with a viral infection, they must stay away from Kindergarten for 24 hours. If your child has vomiting and diarrhoea they must remain absent from Kindergarten until 48 hours after their last symptom. We ask parents and children not to come to Kindergarten if they are sick. Sickness includes vomiting, diarrhoea, high temperatures, a green runny nose along with any other flu like symptoms, conjunctivitis, impetigo and any other contagious illness. With contagious illnesses, like strep throat and chickenpox, we need to know immediately so we can notify other parents and in some cases, the Ministry of Health.

**Accidents:** Any accidents that occur in the Kindergarten are recorded in the first aid book. Details of what happened, when, the injury and the treatment are recorded and need to be signed by parents at pick up time. Most of the teachers have first aid certificates. Significant accidents will be reported to you in person or by phone at the time of the event.

**Head lice:** To prevent head lice, please check your child's scalp and hair roots once a week, vigorously brush the hair daily and comb the hair with a fine-toothed comb at least once a week. If you notice head lice or eggs, please treat them straight away and let your child's teacher know so we can ask all parents to check their children's hair and treat it if necessary. Health food shops and chemists have appropriate treatments. We ask that children don't attend Kindergarten with untreated head lice. For information on how to treat head lice, visit:

<https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/wellbeing/head-lice/>

**Immunisations:** Please provide a copy of your child's immunisation record at the time of new vaccinations to the Kindergarten office.

**Administering medicine:** We would prefer not to give children any medicine at Kindergarten. If your child needs some form of medication, please request a form to fill out. Homeopathic and other remedies for first aid are only given if you have given permission in your enrolment forms.

### Visitors to the Kindergarten - 10 things to remember

- Please use the blue gate at the front entrance to come in and close it at all times
- Walk at all times, no running
- Hold hands with your child
- Children to wear shoes and hats and carry their own bag
- Sign your child in at drop off and pick up
- The Wairere (little stream in the Kindergarten garden) is only to be used when a teacher is supervising
- Leave Kindergarten and School grounds promptly
- Refrain from taking photos and videos at Kindergarten and School events
- Refrain from using cell phones on School grounds.

## Working together - home and kindergarten

Throughout the year there are lots of opportunities to get involved with the Kindergarten. From working bees, chopping wood, craft evenings and workshops, to the wide range of activities in preparation for the annual School fair. You can find out about these through the range of communication pathways, including our website, School App, and your Parent Liaison.

### Parent evenings

Each Kindergarten class holds a parent evening every term. It's a time for teachers to share what is happening in their classroom, discuss upcoming events and cover any housekeeping. You're invited to share your thoughts, experiences, learn more about Waldorf Education and Special Character, and ask questions, which often leads to inspiring conversations!

Parent evenings are a great place to meet other parents, who may share the Waldorf learning journey with you for years to come. If you have topics you'd like the teachers to cover at the parent evening, please let them know in advance so they can do some research.

### Our pledge system

Your pledges are what make the difference!

*The pledges fund the special things we offer at our Kindergarten. Without the pledges of money and deeds, we wouldn't be a Waldorf Kindergarten, with all the colour, culture and plain old fun that this entails.*

For many years, the Waldorf Schools Trust has been delighted to fund a continuous stream of strategic development and improvement in every area of School and Kindergarten due to donations from parents. This is vital to provide the number and quality of our learning spaces.

The financial contributions we receive from parents, as well as donated time and skills, allow your child to have a Waldorf Education. It's also allowing future children to have a Waldorf Education and for Waldorf Education to thrive in New Zealand. To discuss pledges, please email: [pledges@waldorftga.nz](mailto:pledges@waldorftga.nz)

### Extra curricular activities

A Waldorf Education is characterised by an unhurried start (learning 'over time') and a developmental or readiness focus (learning 'in time'), which is why it can be helpful to know which activities we do, and when, so you can support this at home.

- **Stories:** In Kindergarten, the children listen to fairy tales, animal stories, and simple Māori legends.
- **Music:** All children learn recorder from Class 1 and continue to play throughout their journey at School. They play violin in Class 3 and 4 – this is compulsory. If you'd like your child to learn another instrument, we ask for this to wait until Class 3 when the child is more ready. Please approach your child's teacher, if you are considering an earlier start.
- **Sport:** Team sport begins in Class 3 where we offer hockey, cricket, touch, flippa ball, basketball and volleyball. These sports are chosen as they encourage the children to work as a team. Free play is encouraged. We don't start sport earlier because children don't yet have the overview they need to work as a team before then. For example, dance or ballet children can be 'woken

up' too early into body awareness and become self conscious. The aim here is to let development unfold before giving directions and structuring movement.

- **Watches:** An analogue watch makes a lovely birthday gift but please wait until they are in Class 3 because that's when they have the 'time' main lesson.

## Technology in the home

*“What is the rush? There is a time and a place for technology, but children need to first relate to the physical world around them.” Natalie Adams, Washington Waldorf.*

Waldorf schools encourage the healthy use of technology, which is why we ask you not to give your child access to TV, movies, computer games and computers during Kindergarten.

### This is because screen time:

- **Irritates children's sensitive nervous systems.** The fast picture changes and electronic flickering on screens affects children deeply, regardless of the content they have been watching.
- **Hinders their imagination.** When children are on screens they are not involved in the art of play and imagination. Removing screen time gives them time to conjure their own worlds.
- **Affects children socially.** A child will often try to play out a movie or digital experience they have had, and become frustrated when the other children either don't know what they are talking about, aren't interested, or 'get it wrong' because they do not know the predetermined story.
- **Leads to unproductive, repetitive play.** A child digests their experiences through play, ie: mum cooks dinner, the child plays cooking etc. But, when a child is trying to digest a digital experience they often don't have enough 'ingredients' because it wasn't a real life experience. This means they're not able to fully absorb the experience, which leads to replaying the exact situation they've seen on screen, over and over, which has no learning value.



### DRAFT Guidelines (2016) regarding student use of entertainment technology, ICT and Social Media

CLASS	Selected Children's radio; (age-appropriate)	Audio Books	Limited Skype	Docos and Films; (no ads)	Sports on TV	IPods	Supervised Analogue Phone	Supervised Ipad / computer	Filtered and controlled Access to internet	Commercial TV	Supervised Computer Games	Controlled Smart Phone	Independent Smart Phone	Social Media
12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
4	✓	✓	✓	✓										
3	✓	✓	✓											
2	✓	✓	✓											
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The above guidelines were drafted in response to parent feedback regarding safe use by students of ICT and Social Media. In preparing the above, we've also considered a Steiner / Waldorf picture of child development, our curriculum emphasis on the development of imagination and thinking capacities, published research, articles and resources from both a Steiner / Waldorf perspective and from mainstream community agencies such as Netsafe. Our assumption in all cases is that content is supervised to age-appropriate and that children attain increasing independence through demonstrating responsible and measured use. We invite your feedback between now and the end of term using the survey form attached.

## Useful resources

Resource	Purpose
<a href="http://www.thegrid.org.nz">www.thegrid.org.nz</a>	<b>Getting Connected</b> - Understanding the impact and potential of ICT use for individuals and society; <b>Safety</b> – applying sound personal cybersafety strategies which promote personal safety; <b>Responsibility</b> – understanding, following and promoting cybersafety guidelines which support community safety and wellbeing.
<a href="http://www.netsafe.org.nz">www.netsafe.org.nz</a>	Resources to engage parents and the community
<a href="http://www.common sense media.org">www.common sense media.org</a>	How much screen-time is okay for my kids? Strategies for limiting exposure
<a href="http://www.digiparenting.co.nz">www.digiparenting.co.nz</a>	Setting digital boundaries
<a href="http://www.netsafe.org.nz">www.netsafe.org.nz</a>	
- Staying Safe Online	Cyber-safety tips - downloadable PDF
- Parent Guide to Instagram	Guidelines on Instagram - downloadable PDF
- What is a digital footprint?	Becoming a good digital citizen - on website.

## Useful links

High Tech vs No Tech by Cecelia Kang	Steiner / Waldorf approaches to technology - <a href="http://www.rudolfsteinerfederation.org.nz/article/high-tech-vs-no-tech">www.rudolfsteinerfederation.org.nz/article/high-tech-vs-no-tech</a>
Tablets out, imagination in, schools that shun technology, by Matthew Jenkin (The Guardian)	<a href="http://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2015/dec/02/schools-that-ban-tablets-traditional-education-silicon-valley-london">www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2015/dec/02/schools-that-ban-tablets-traditional-education-silicon-valley-london</a>
Media and Waldorf Education, by Henning Kullak Ublick	<a href="http://www.waldorf-resources.org/articles/display/archive/2015/06/24/article/struwelpeter-20-media-and-waldorf-education/62182e8844e2d5f8eeac6b0d3a45978e/">www.waldorf-resources.org/articles/display/archive/2015/06/24/article/struwelpeter-20-media-and-waldorf-education/62182e8844e2d5f8eeac6b0d3a45978e/</a>
How Today's Kids are Growing Up Online, by Rose Hoare (New Zealand Herald)	<a href="http://www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/news/article.cfm?c_id=6&amp;objectid=11732713">www.nzherald.co.nz/lifestyle/news/article.cfm?c_id=6&amp;objectid=11732713</a>

## Communicating and strengthening relationships

It's important to create, maintain and strengthen relationships between our Kindergarten children, their whanau and the community. Keeping everyone involved and included in the teachings and the learnings is what makes our School community special and united.

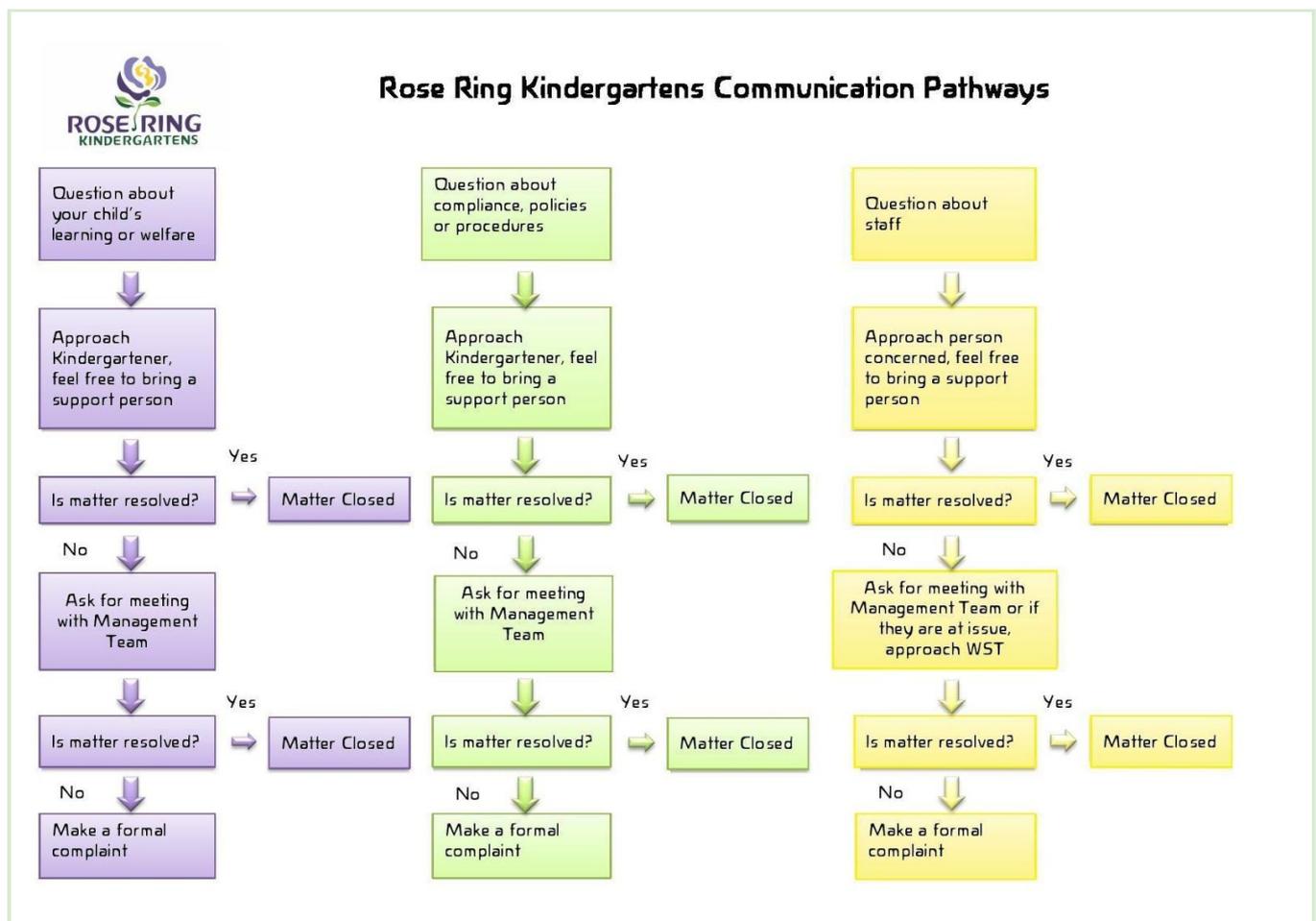
### How do I contact Kindergarten teachers?

- Email your Kindergarten teacher or the Kindergarten Manager with any queries.
- Write a note and give it to the teacher (or leave it in the communication book) in the morning to arrange a suitable time to talk.
- Leave a message in the communication book (outside your Kindergarten room) if you don't mind other parents viewing it.
- Email [kindergartenadmin@waldorftga.nz](mailto:kindergartenadmin@waldorftga.nz) or pop into the Kindergarten office to book an appointment.

**Please note:** teachers don't check their emails on weekends, late at night or during Kindergarten hours.

### What happens if there is an emergency during or outside School hours?

Parents will be notified via an alert through the SchoolApp. To read our emergency policy, ask for the Kindergarten Operation Manual.





## ***How we communicate***

- **Newsletter:** This is a newsletter sent out electronically throughout the year. It contains a letter from the principal with updates of the latest events, news and dates to remember. The newsletter can be viewed on our School App or website.
- **Class email updates:** Your child's teacher will email updates regarding class activities as well as festival newsletters so you know what to expect and how to support your child.
- **School App:** Download "SchoolApps" from the App Store on your phone and search Tauranga Waldorf School. It's the fastest and easiest way for us to communicate to the whole School and you will receive alerts on your phone when we do (please enable this within your phone settings).
- **Facebook:** Parents of the School have set up a closed group called *TW Community Group* to share and communicate. It's not managed by the Kindergarten or School. For any questions or concerns about your child, please communicate with your child's teacher.
- **Website:** Find out all about our learning journey, teachers, events, ERO reports, resources and more at <https://waldorftga.school.nz/>
- **Parent Evenings:** Held each term, these evenings are a chance to meet other parents, hear from teachers, share thoughts, experiences and maybe a plate of treats or two!
- **Parent Voice** for documenting children's learning and planning and goal setting. Kindergarten teachers plan carefully for each child using a bicultural planning template. As part of this, each term parents will be asked to answer these three questions to help us plan thoughtfully for each child and the whole Kindergarten.
  1. Lately I have noticed my child changing and growing in the following ways:
  2. Recently I have seen them become interested in:
  3. An aspiration, hope or goal that I currently have for them is:

### **Concerns and complaints**

Kindergarten staff endeavor to consult and listen to parents and whanau, respect differing views, remain open to adapting and following suggestions where appropriate. Efforts are made to avoid confrontations through recognition of sensitive areas, and conflict solving in a cooperative manner. If you have any concerns, please contact your teacher.

## General information

### Parking

Please drive slowly at all times when on School grounds and DO NOT park on the yellow road markings.

You can park:

- On the right hand side of the driveway below the Kindergartens
- Between class 3 and 4
- Beside the back field.

If all the car parks are full, park on the hill above the School field at the rear of the School. Please don't drive across the field during School hours. Please do not park in the visitor / baby car parks right outside the main Cowshed/Office building unless you have a young baby.

### Bikes

Helmets are compulsory. Children are not to ride on the School grounds except during bike week or the occasional wheels day. There are bike stands at the entrance of the Kindergarten by the Kindergarten Staff Parking. The other stands are by Class 7 and behind Class 4.

### Friday Market

Every Friday from 2:30pm, a collection of parents sell their wares! From bread, gluten free/vegetarian pizza, sushi, baked goods, drinks, vegetables and more - it's a great chance to support and connect with other parents and children. It is held on the knoll outside the Whare in good weather and outside the Cowshed if not. The location and any cancellations are announced via the SchoolApp. If you'd like to set up a healthy stall at the market, please talk to reception.

### Crafty Pukeko

The Crafty Pukeko is our community shop just outside the office entrance selling products and resources in line with the Waldorf philosophy. A great place for gifts, it sells products made by parents as well as natural craft materials including wool, felt and beeswax crayons. We strive to offer our children a safe shopping experience with smaller pocket money items available for them to buy.

Our shop is open before and after School subject to availability as it is run by an army of parent volunteers. If you can spare 30 minutes once a week, please get in touch with the office. All training is provided and it's a great way to meet people in our community.

### Morning song

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, there is an opportunity to take a moment to stop, breathe and sing a few songs with a group of other parents/teachers outside the Cowshed before heading off into what is often a busy day.

### Parent reading folder

Each Kindergarten has a parent reading folder (available upon request) with lots of relevant bite-sized information about Waldorf education and related topics.

## Recommended reading

### **Simplicity Parenting, by Kim John Payne - a must read!**

Easy and enjoyable to read, parents say it offers inspiration, ideas and a blueprint for raising calmer, happier and more secure children - aligning perfectly with the Tauranga Waldorf way of life.

- Mitten strings for god. Reflections for mothers in a hurry - Katrina Kenison
- Beyond the rainbow bridge. Nurturing our children from birth to seven - Barbara J Patterson and Pamela Bradley.
- Work and Play in Early Childhood - Freya Jaffke
- Free to learn - Lynne Oldfield
- Creating a Home for Body, Soul, and Spirit: A New Approach to Childcare - Bernadette Raichle.

## Where it all began...

Parents, educators and friends united to set up the Tauranga Waldorf School and Kindergarten in 1988 to provide an education (based on the teaching methods of Dr. Rudolf Steiner) in a creative, nurturing environment for children from birth – 13 year olds.

A growing international network, Waldorf education is the largest independent School movement in the world, with now over 600 autonomous Schools established in six continents. The first Waldorf School was established in 1919 in Stuttgart, Germany, based upon the teaching methods developed by Dr. Rudolf Steiner (1861 – 1925), an Austrian teacher, philosopher, scientist, artist and architect.



