



Education

**Dunedin Rudolf Steiner**

Learning with head, heart and hands

## **Procedure for enrolling kindergarten children on to the school roll**

1. Kindergarten children will be enrolled on the school roll on their sixth birthday. They will remain within the kindergarten. This reflects the Special Character of Rudolf Steiner Schools where formal academic learning is delayed until the child is ready. The practice is one that is enshrined in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Federation of Rudolf Steiner Schools and the Ministry of Education. Class 1 intake includes children who have turned six before the end of the preceding October.
2. The Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School may also place five year olds on the school roll if this is in line with the parents' wishes. This would occur in circumstances where additional students on the roll would result in additional teacher entitlement for the school. (Sometimes just having one additional child on the school roll could bring an additional \$55,000 to the school). The five year olds would remain in the kindergarten.
3. Any child in kindergarten who is on the school roll is obliged by the Ministry of Education to attend kindergarten for the full school week. The Dunedin Rudolf Steiner School is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm. These are the hours which those children would be required to attend.
4. The school will report any incidents to the Attendance Officer, where a child has not attended for 10 half days or more a term. This reporting is done at the end of each term. Current discussions with the Attendance Officer indicate that she is not concerned about children's non- attendance before the child turns six and is then legally obliged to enrol at a school.
5. Some parents have asked for further information on the implications of their child's possible attendance at kindergarten – for example if their six year old did not attend every afternoon. The Ministry expects the school to manage its own attendance issues in the first instance – for example through discussions with parents. If there is serious truancy (which is not the case in the example given here), with a child taking extended absence without reasonable excuse, then the eventual outcome could be the involvement of Child, Youth and Family or prosecution under section 24 or 29 of the Education Act.
6. Parents may decide that they wish to home-school their six year old and not have them enrolled in the school until they start class 1. They might then still attend the kindergarten part time just as a part of their home schooling. It is the parents' responsibility to apply for the home school exemption and to manage the schooling of their child. Application forms are available from the Ministry

of Education (tel 471 5200). Parents may wish to speak to Clare to see any other examples of when this has happened.

**If you are asked if you would enrol your five year old**

- Consider whether you feel the child is ready to attend for five days a week and whether you are concerned about any truancy reporting if, for example you took them home at 1pm on some days.

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_      Review Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_