



IRISH WALDORF EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Statement on Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion

(Adapted from a position paper published by the European Council of Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) May 2025)

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

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.

Steiner Waldorf education acknowledges diversity and is fundamentally committed to the ideals of equality, respect, and unity among all human beings.