

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

THORNBURY PRIMARY & STEINER STREAM PARENTS

FOUNDATION – CLASS SIX

Purpose

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to provide essential information to parents/carers who have enrolled or are considering enrolling their child/ren in the Thornbury Primary School (TPS) Steiner stream. The Steiner Stream at Thornbury Primary School offers an alternative stream within the setting and requirements of a Victorian Government school.

“Our highest endeavour must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives. The need for imagination, a sense of truth and a feeling of responsibility – these three forces are the very nerve of education.” ~Rudolf Steiner

TPS Steiner Vision and History

TPS are proud to be one of only a handful of Victorian Government Schools that offer Steiner as an alternative stream within the setting of a government school. The staff of this program are committed to providing a rich Steiner Program for students, they have a core commitment to exploring and deepening the pedagogy through group study and mentoring. Parents/carers intending to enrol their children in this program should therefore familiarise themselves with the aims, practices and expectations of the Steiner Education Australia Program.

There are publications and a large range of literature available on the Steiner Education Australia (SEA) website (<https://www.steinereducation.edu.au/>).

TPS Steiner Community Connection

A strong community connection is considered to be central to the work of nourishing and supporting students to grow physically, emotionally, socially and academically. Teachers work closely with parents/carers through a strong Class Carer Network. The Class carer is a parent/carer who works to support the teacher to communicate to the whole class community.

The school and its staff organise regular community events including class meetings which are held twice a year. During these meetings teachers discuss curriculum and pedagogy with parents/carers. We encourage attending class meetings to learn more about the curriculum and classroom events and ways that you can support your child's learning. There are also opportunities to be involved in annual class plays and many school community events. We also seek parental/carer support in a number of areas including camps, class play preparation, festivals and class crafting workshops/working bees.

A decision to enrol a student in the Steiner Program carries with it the implicit agreement to support the work of the teachers, through both learning at school and home. Continuing to make wise and supportive choices in parenting, students will experience the full benefits of the Steiner education, from early years all the way through to later adolescence. Some options for supporting the Steiner learning at home include:

- Maintaining healthy rhythm and routine in the home life
- Encouraging a healthy diet and active lifestyle
- Promotion of creative, self-directed play
- Build on the emphasis on nature and the outdoors, and discourage the use of indoor electronic stimulation.

Non-negotiable components of TPS Steiner

Intending parents/carers should also note that enrolment into the Steiner Program at Thornbury Primary School is a commitment from Foundation to until the end of Class Six, after a one term trial period. TPS Steiner is a holistic package with essential components which are non-negotiable. These include:

- Art and craft lessons
- Music and orchestra

- Requirement to learn a string instrument (Violin, Viola or Cello) from the beginning of Class Three Start of day at 9.00am with Morning Circle. This is an important part of a holistic Steiner curriculum whereby students participate in singing, reciting poetry and movement activities.
- Wear school uniform options as per the TPS Uniform Policy

All these components are governed by the Victorian Government and school policies and ratified by the School Council. Parents who cannot wholeheartedly accept and support all aspects of the Steiner stream should consider other educational settings, including the Main Stream at Thornbury Primary School.

Related Policies:

- Enrolment Policy
- Parent Payment Policy
- Uniform Policy

Additional Fees specific to Steiner Stream

The components specific to the Class P-6 Steiner program are extra to those offered in the Main Program and therefore incur additional fees and levies, none of which are optional. **These start at approximately \$630 for Foundation and increase each year.** These fees for cover class stationery and consumables, art, music and orchestra which are detailed in the Steiner Fee Structure of Essential Education Items available at the school.

- Individual instrumental music costs (strings from class three) are additional to the Steiner fee structure.

Other school based costs can include personal stationery, excursions and incursions, camps, sport/swimming lessons and other special programs or events that occur throughout the year. The Steiner Program cannot run effectively without these levies, and failure to pay may result in a student being offered a place in the Main Program, where there is a smaller financial commitment.

Intending parents must also recognise that Thornbury Primary School is a Victorian Government school and as such all students, from all programs at the school, are expected to undertake formal assessments of programs for Literacy and Numeracy including NAPLAN testing and reporting student learning to the achievement standards of the Victorian Curriculum. Electronic devices may be utilised to facilitate these assessments.

Signing below confirms your intention to fully support the Thornbury Primary School Steiner Program in these matters.

CHILD/REN'S NAME:

CLASS:

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN:

DATE:

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

DATE:

PRIVACY NOTICE – ENROLMENT FORM

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE BEFORE COMPLETING THE ENROLMENT FORM

This confidential enrolment form asks for personal information about your child as well as family members and others that provide care for your child. The main purpose for collecting this information is so that Thornbury Primary School can register your child and allocate staff and resources to provide for their educational and support needs. All staff at Thornbury Primary School and the Department of Education & Training are required by law to protect the information provided by this enrolment form.

Health information is asked for so that staff at Thornbury Primary School can properly care for your child. This includes information about any medical condition or disability your child may have, medication your child may rely on while at school, any known allergies and contact details of your child's doctor. Thornbury Primary School depends on you to provide all relevant health information because withholding some health information may put your child's health at risk.

Thornbury Primary School requires information about all parents, guardians or carers so that we can take account of family arrangements. Family Court Orders setting out any access restrictions and parenting plans should be made available to Thornbury Primary School. Please tell us as soon as possible about any changes to these arrangements. Please do not hesitate to contact the Principal, Thornbury Primary School, if you would like to discuss, in strict confidence, any matters relating to family arrangements.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

These are people that Thornbury PS may need to contact in an emergency. Please ensure that the people named are aware that they have been nominated as emergency contacts and agree to their details being provided to Thornbury PS.

STUDENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This includes information about a person's country of birth, aboriginality, language spoken at home and parent occupation. This information is collected so that Thornbury Primary School receives appropriate resource allocations for their students. It is also used by the Department to plan for future educational needs in Victoria. Some information is sent to Commonwealth government agencies for monitoring, planning and resource allocation. All of this information is kept strictly confidential and the Department will not otherwise disclose the information to others without your consent or as required by law.

IMMUNISATION STATUS

This assists Thornbury Primary School in managing health risks for children. This information may also be passed to the Department of Human Services to assess immunisation rates in Victoria. Information sent to the Department of Human Services is aggregate data so no individual is identified.

VISA STATUS

This information is required to enable Thornbury Primary School to process your child's enrolment.

UPDATING YOUR CHILD'S RECORDS

Please let Thornbury Primary School know if any information needs to be changed by sending updated information to the school office. During your child's time with Thornbury Primary School we will also send you copies of enrolment information held by us. Please use this opportunity to let us know of any changes.

ACCESS TO YOUR CHILD'S RECORD HELD BY SCHOOL

In most circumstances you can access your child's records. Please contact the Principal to arrange this. Sometimes access to certain information, such as information provided by someone else, may require a Freedom of Information request. We will advise you if this is required and tell you how you can do this.

If you have any concerns about the confidentiality of this information please contact the Principal. Thornbury Primary School can also provide you with more detailed information about privacy policies that govern the collection and use of information requested on this form. This form is available on request.