

Hello,

Firstly, I apologise for my slightly hurried response, however this in no way diminished my convictions.

I am writing to you in regard to the 'Review to inform Better and Fairer Education Systems' call for submissions. I am a parent from [REDACTED] School, and also a Registered Nurse, and have worked for a short time in the past as a SSO supporting [REDACTED] Steiner Primary School.

I am passionate about the availability of Steiner education being offered within the Government Educational System. Personally, my husband and I could not have afforded to provide a private Steiner education for our children. We have been so fortunate for the chance to experience this without the added substantial Private fess, and we are not alone in our circumstances. With many families now wanting to move away from the traditional push of mainstream education to a less IT focused, and a more nurturing school experience.

Our children have flourished with the gentle, non-hurried teaching. Having the same teacher, and students in their class each year has made their primary schooling much less stressful. We have personally found our teachers – [REDACTED] to be of such high standards, with both offering such rigour in their teachings to the students. Their level of commitment is applaudable.

Steiner education offers us a different perspective. It seeks to acknowledge the child as a whole, not just a student within a system reliant on grades and tests. Many of the *wellbeing* actions taken on as an addition to mainstream education, are already embedded within the pedagogy of Steiner/Waldorf Education. So when you ask.... Should the NSRA only focus on how well students do in tests? Or should it focus on other things as well? I answer firstly no, then YES! I understand the usefulness of test and grades in some circumstances, however with the increasing diversity of needs within the schooling system today, many children benefit from a style of assessment where they have the chance to prove themselves capable outside of testing and grading criteria. My son has dyslexia, and he has certainly been supported by his teacher in this area in able to show better outcomes for him at an academic, and personal level. I have no doubt in my mind that if he were in a mainstream class, we would've been dragging him to school, with the high chance of eventually home-schooling. Our much preferred option is to have him where he is, in a caring non-judgemental environment, with an absolute first class teacher guiding him through his primary years.

I hope that the Review Panel can undertake to recommend that Steiner Education continues to be offered within the public education System, so that it remains available for all families to choose it.

I would be happy to discuss further any of the above.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]