



**PRESS RELEASE**

**MONDAY 23rd JANUARY 2013**

**EYFS EXEMPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS GRANTED TO STEINER SCHOOLS AND SETTINGS**

**Norwich Steiner School Granted Exemptions from the Revised Early Years Foundation Stage**

The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage came into force in September 2012. Norwich Steiner School, along with other Steiner kindergartens, has now been granted exemptions and modifications to the Learning and Development Requirements relating to the formal teaching of literacy, numeracy and technology, and is now exempt from the requirement to assess children at age 5.

This will allow us to continue to provide the time and space for the natural, unforced development of these key skills, alongside physical, emotional and social skills, through creative play and imitation.

Steiner Schools and Early Childhood Settings, made a united application through the umbrella organisation, the Steiner Waldorf Schools Fellowship. [www.steinerwaldorf.org](http://www.steinerwaldorf.org)

The Secretary of State has agreed to all the exemptions or modifications requested on the grounds that Steiner kindergartens cannot meet the EYFS requirements without compromising their ethos and practice. The granting of these exemptions and modifications is in accordance with the ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES route as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Exemptions from Learning and Development Requirements) Regulations 2008 as amended by the Early Years Foundation Stage (Exemptions from Learning and Development Requirements) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

To achieve this, the schools/settings had to complete the following steps:

1. Contact the Local Authority to make sure their funding was safe, should they have exemptions. *Some settings are still waiting for responses from their LA's.*
2. Notify parents, and get their agreement. *There was unanimous support from all parents, who chose Steiner education specifically for their children to have the benefit of a later introduction to formal learning, and experience an extended childhood in an enabling environment which prepares them for life, not only for school.*
3. Notify the LA of the parents decision
4. Send the application to the DfE Exemptions team

Kindergartens, such as Norwich, not in receipt of the Early Years Grant made an application also for exemption from the Assessment regulations which includes the Profile submission. These too were granted.

The exemptions will remain in place as long as the principles under which it was granted are followed by the setting.

If you would like to receive further information about this, please contact Norwich Steiner School on 01603 611175, or by e-mail: [info@norwichsteinerschool.co.uk](mailto:info@norwichsteinerschool.co.uk). Alternatively, please contact Janni Nicol, SWSF Early Childhood Representative [jnicol@steinerwaldorf.org](mailto:jnicol@steinerwaldorf.org)

**For anyone interested in finding out more about Steiner Education, please visit the school's website [www.norwichsteinerschool.co.uk](http://www.norwichsteinerschool.co.uk) for details of forthcoming Open Days/Introductory Mornings.**