

Snapshot of Steiner Schools 2018



Welcome



In 2018 we set about undertaking the largest survey in the history of Steiner Education in Australia.

Over a period of about 4 weeks, more than 3,000 people who have experienced Steiner schools first-hand, answered an online survey and gave us open and honest feedback.

Our parents are seeking a Steiner school because it reflects their values, is different from mainstream schooling and there is strong support for our ACARA recognised curriculum.

Their overall satisfaction levels are very high across the board including:

- 86% of parents either strongly agree or agree that they are/were satisfied with their choice.
- 78% strongly agree or agree that their expectations have been/were fulfilled.
- 77% strongly agree or agree that the quality of teachers is/was strong.
- 86% strongly agree or agree with the statement that they value/valued an arts-based approach to learning.
- 84% of parents strongly agree or agree that the teacher knows/knew their child.
- 73% strongly agree or agree that the community is supportive and unified.
- 81% strongly agree or agree that the quality of classrooms and resources is high.

These are impressive figures which demonstrate the value placed on the very essence of a Steiner education.

Students tell us that they feel happy and fulfilled at school and have good relationships with their teachers and fellow students – solid indicators of a high level of student wellbeing which research shows is a determinant in strong academic and general life outcomes.

This is strongly supported by our alumni who largely remain connected to their Steiner school and 95% agree that attending a Steiner school has been an asset in life.

From the perspectives of Principals/Equivalent and Teachers as well, we unsurprisingly found strong commitment to the Steiner ideals, values and pedagogy. This included a commitment to the view of child development underpinning the curriculum, the incorporation of eurhythm into programs, teaching artistically and ensuring the festivals promote growth and rhythm within the community.

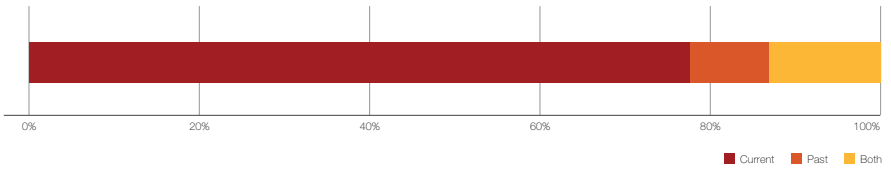
This is not to say we cannot improve – and certainly the data from the survey will assist us to grow as a group of schools; but it does show that those who know us best are telling us that we are doing something very right and that we have much to be proud of.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virginia Moller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Virginia Moller
CEO, Steiner Education Australia

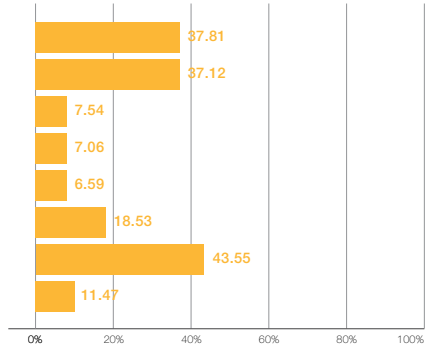
Parents

Type of parent



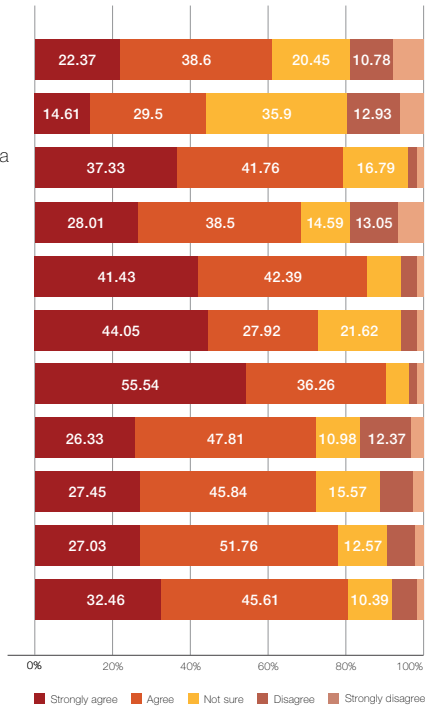
Top two reasons you picked this school

- It is a Steiner School
- I wanted something different from mainstream
- The school is local to where I live
- The school has a strong reputation
- Friends/relatives have attended this school
- An education beyond an ATAR score
- School reflects my values
- I wanted my child to be a child

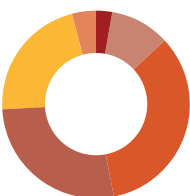


Rate the following statements

- The school is/was well run by management
- There is/was appropriate learning support for students
- My child has developed as a well-rounded individual as a result of the school
- Staff respond effectively when issues are raised
- Teachers know/knew how my child progressed
- Teacher remaining with the class until Y6/8 is a distinct advantage
- Value an arts-based approach to learning
- The school provides/d regular feedback about my child
- The community is/was supportive and unified
- Students behave/d respectfully towards on another and teachers
- The quality of classrooms and resources is/was high

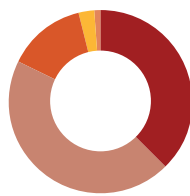


In which of these have you participated?



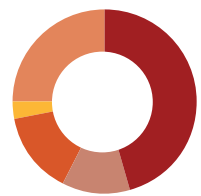
- Parents College (6.57)
- P&F (24.24)
- Volunteering at the school (79.18)
- Fundraising activities (63.64)
- Classroom assistance (50.72)
- None of these (9.45)

How satisfied were you with this participation?



- Very satisfied (37.76)
- Satisfied (44.72)
- Somewhat satisfied (13.75)
- Dissatisfied (2.77)
- Very dissatisfied (1.0)

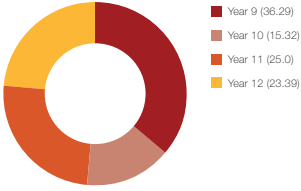
Do you have experience with other schools?



- Government schools (45.66)
- Catholic schools (12.0)
- Independent schools (14.54)
- No others (24.88)
- Home schooling (2.93)

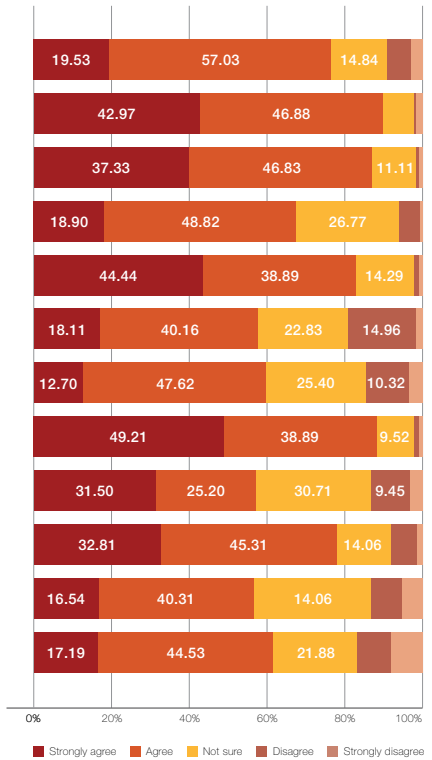
Students

What year are you currently in?



Rate the following statements

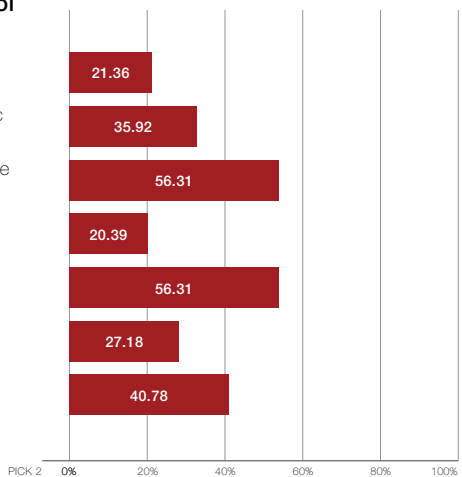
- I am very happy and fulfilled at school
- I have good relationships with my teachers
- I have good relationships with other students
- The school is committed to Steiner philosophy
- I like the freedom of a Steiner education
- I like the festivals and the rhythm they create
- Staff respond effectively when issues are raised
- Teachers know me
- I like having one teacher until Year 6 or 8
- I like the main lesson as the centrepiece to cover the curriculum
- There is/was appropriate learning support for students requiring assistance
- The use of technology in the classroom is sufficient and enjoyable



Alumni

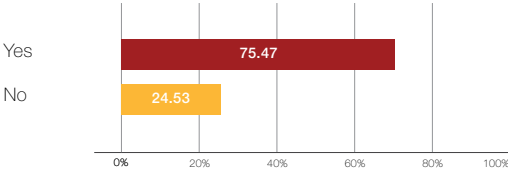
Benefits of attending a Steiner school

- I did not feel rushed to become a teenager
- I did not feel pressured to achieve high academic scores
- An arts-based approach fostered my creative side
- I achieved my best spiritually
- I developed a more rounded view of the world
- I can better cope with the challenges of life
- I developed a more rounded view of myself

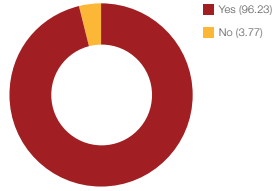


Principals/Equivalent

Have you received specialised training in Steiner Education?

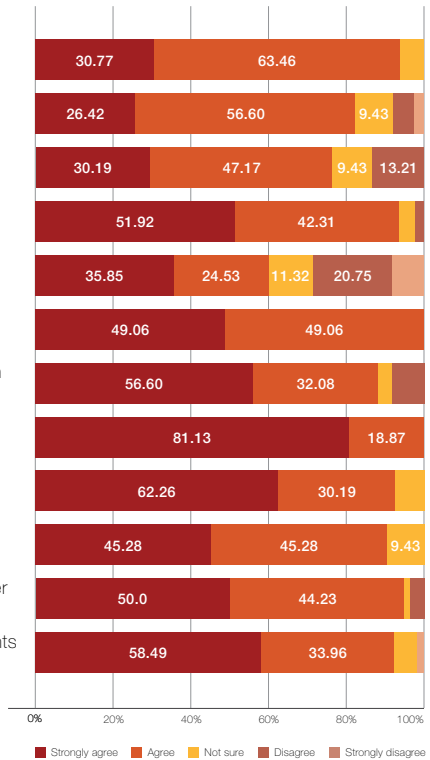


Do you enjoy your role?



Rate the following statements

- We have an anthroposophical understanding of the human being
- We focus on teacher inner development
- We focus on child study
- We have a College of Teachers
- We incorporate eurhythmy into programs
- We teach artistically
- We ensure there are camps at least annually for each year group
- We encourage festivals to help create the rhythm for our community
- We encourage teachers to study Steiner philosophy
- We encourage parents to actively participate in their child's education
- We run the school in a manner consistent with Steiner values and philosophies
- We actively respond when issues are raised by parents and teachers



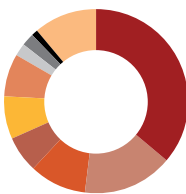
Teachers

Duration in teaching role



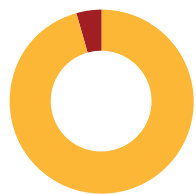
- Less than 3 years
- 3+ to 5 years
- 5+ to 10 years
- 10+ to 20 years
- More than 20 years

Why did you select this school?



- It is a Steiner school
- Wanted something different to mainstream
- Local to where I live
- School has a strong reputation
- Friends/relatives attend
- Know teachers/staff
- I am a graduate
- I went to a Steiner school
- Only job I could get
- Other

Does your job provide you with satisfaction?



- Yes it does
- No it doesn't

About the Survey and Respondents

This survey was undertaken and presented by
Australian Public Affairs (www.apa.net.au)
in March and April 2018.

There were 3,055 respondents across all
stakeholder groups.

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