

Michael Hall
a Steiner Waldorf School

What to expect from Parent & Child to Kindergarten





From Parent and Child to Kindergarten

The transition from Parent Child groups into Kindergarten is a natural and wonderful next step for your child. We have compiled this resource of frequently asked questions to support you in making this transition with your child.

When is the right time?

Around the age of three many children develop a little more independence in their play and begin to enjoy the company of peers. However, this can be later, depending on your child's nature and personal circumstances.

You are the best person to know when your child is ready, although your Parent and Child Group Leader will be happy to discuss the matter with you.

A child can move up to Kindergarten in the Autumn Term, in discussion with the Kindergarten Teacher. They can also join on the first day of the Spring Term. Following this, there are no further admissions until the following September.

What is life like in Kindergarten?

We offer various ways in which you can find out about our Kindergarten settings:

Open Mornings – Open mornings give you the opportunity to see the settings as well as to speak with the Early Years Assistant Principal with questions you may have.

Questions - The Parent Child Group leader will always be happy to meet with you to answer any questions or discuss your situation. The Early Years Assistant Principal will visit the Parent Child groups in the Spring Term to answer questions you may have.

Becoming part of the Kindergarten Community- Once your child has been placed in a Kindergarten group, the Class Contact (a parent volunteer) will welcome and help you to join the social group of Kindergarten parents.



Why do Kindergartens have mixed age groups?

Each Kindergarten group is a closely knit community, with two practitioners in each setting (a teacher and assistant) who lovingly manage the social interaction between all the members. Each group strives to have an even number of 3 to 6 year olds. However, depending on where a child's birthday falls in the year, some of the oldest children might turn seven before entering Class 1.

The teachers carefully differentiate the daily activities for the various age groups and individual needs of children. The younger children look up to and learn a lot from the older ones, who in turn learn to be gentle and receptive to the needs of the little ones.

How do I apply for Kindergarten?

Once you have decided to enroll your child in the Michael Hall Kindergarten, you can apply online through the Admissions menu on our website www.michaelhall.co.uk or contact the Admissions Registrar for more information admissions@michaelhall.co.uk. In order to ensure a place, your application must be received by March preceding the academic year that you want your child to start in Kindergarten.

Closer to the time of admission, you will be invited to meet the teacher of the group your child has been placed in. This allocation is made by the Early Years Assistant Principal who proceeds according to the policy of balancing the groups as best as possible by gender and age, endeavoring to achieve groups which are very similar in size and age constellations.

All the teachers work closely together, ensuring that there is a consistently high quality of education throughout. The Parent & Child Group Leader works with the Kindergarten Teachers, giving them a developmental picture of the children before they move up, to help them settle into the Kindergarten setting.

What happens during the meeting with your child's Kindergarten Teacher?

You and your child will be invited to meet the teacher and get to know the Kindergarten setting. While your child begins to explore the play environment, you will have an informative chat with the teacher. This will include information from you about your child, and from us about the day to day rhythm of the Kindergarten. In this meeting, you will also discuss the number of days your child will attend. We have a minimum requirement of 3 consecutive days and do recommend children being in Kindergarten for 5 days a week as soon as possible. It is a golden opportunity to ask all you want and to mention any concerns you may have. The teacher is happy to discuss these with you and form a settling in plan suited to your child's needs and circumstances.

If you plan for your child to start in Kindergarten in September, you will be invited to a welcome gathering for all the Kindergarten children and parents in your group to come together after the summer break.

How will my child settle?

Settling in, by its very nature includes a delicate separation process, which is a healthy threshold experience if both child and parents are ready for it. Your teacher is aware of this and will handle it with great sensitivity.

Children settle in at different rates, but the settling in period would normally be concluded within half a term.

A positive attitude in the parents' /guardians' willingness to hand over the care of their child to the teacher, is normally the most helpful way to move swiftly through this.

You might initially have an arrangement with the teacher to be reassured by telephone once your child has settled down, which they usually do within a few minutes.

At Michael Hall we see parents as important partners in education. With your support, we want to lead your child on their special and significant journey through school, whilst always striving to make it a happy one.

