



IRISH WALDORF EDUCATION ASSOCIATION



IRISH STEINER WALDORF EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Fostering Relationships, Sustaining Lifelong Learning

SATURDAY 4TH - SUNDAY 5TH
OCTOBER 2025

Limerick School of Art and Design



From the Conference Team

WELCOME

The Irish Waldorf Education Association IWEA, together with Bláthú, the Irish Steiner Early Childhood Association, are delighted to welcome you all to our second national conference.

This second national conference reflects a desire to continue exploring various topics related to education and pedagogy in line with the development of Steiner Waldorf education in Ireland. Our vision is to create an inspiring weekend full of different activities that stimulate reflection, impart knowledge, and enable continuous learning. Of course, it would not be a conference without celebrating what individuals have gained through Waldorf education and also what schools and kindergartens have achieved in establishing this pedagogy in Ireland.

All our workshops will offer opportunities to explore as well as a wealth of knowledge to take home with you to your community and your school/kindergarten. Each participant will contribute to the future of this pedagogy. We are all part of this worldwide movement, the ripple effect will energize and inspire our further work with schools, children, families, and communities. It is our sincere wish that children of all ages can benefit from this truly interesting way of teaching and learning. Let us explore together the teachings and ideas found in the timelessly relevant work and pedagogy of Rudolf Steiner and integrate it into our personal vision towards freedom and humanness!

Jayne Enright & Alan Dickey (IWEA)

Ulrike Farnleitner & Donna Ní Bhaoill (Bláthú)

“We must again become students ourselves, willing to learn. This is one of the basic conditions for Waldorf Education. Our students will only learn from the adult who also chooses the path of learning.”

Hans-Joachim Mattke

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 4TH

11:15 - 12:15	Reception, refreshments, exhibition
12:30 - 12:45	Welcome from the Conference Team Singing with Cornelia Kudiabor
1:00 - 2:15	Keynote Presentation: Learning From Each Other Philipp Reubke - Co-leader, Pedagogical Section of the Goetheanum
2:30 - 3:00	Afternoon Refreshments IASWECE Raffle
3:15 - 5:15	Saturday Workshops
5:30 - 6:45	Panel Discussion: What makes Waldorf different? 3 Irish Waldorf alumni share their perspectives. Liam Flynn, Rhiannon McMahon, Miles Sampson
7:00	Dinner: More delicious vegetarian & vegan food from the legendary Mammias Mona, Dani & Nicki's Kitchen Vegetarian, vegan & all dietary requirements catered for
8:30 - late	An evening of entertainments - playing, singing, dancing



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

SUNDAY 5TH

9:15 - 9:30	Singing with Cornelia Kudiabor
9.30 - 11:30	Sunday Workshops
11.45 - 12.15	Morning Refreshments IASWECE Raffle
12.30 - 1:30	Panel Discussion: Lifelong Play & Creativity Philip Reubke, Nell Smyth & Ulrike Farnleitner Facilitated by Niamh Ruiséál
1.45 - 2:45	Lunch
3.00	Plenary - an opportunity to share what we bring home in our harvest baskets, plus ideas for activities and topics for 2026
3.30	Farewells, and a final song



SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

3:15 pm - 5:15 pm

**BRMT (Blomberg Rhythmic
Movement Training) and Literacy
in Early Years Education**

Niamh Ruiséal

**Waldorf Games &
Movement**
Graham Roe

Form Drawing
Gordon Woolard

**Story and Drama: a seedbed for
meaningful learning and play**
(An emphasis on the primary years)
Nell Smyth

A Guide to Student Qualifications
Beth Sinacola (Crossfields Institute)

**Music in Waldorf
Education**
Cornelia Kudiabor

**Clay-modelling - Animal and
Human Forms**
Almut Woolard

SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

9:30 am - 11:30 am

**An Ciorcal: Kindergarten Songs and
Movement in Irish**
Marguerite Devane

**Introduction to
Wood Carving**
Almut Woolard

Freehand Geometry
Gordon Woolard

Drama & Wellbeing
(An emphasis on the adolescent years)
Larissa Manley

**Play & Creativity in Early Years
Education**
Philipp Reubke & Ulrike Farnleitner

**An Introduction to
Sacred Geometry**
Sile Prendergast

WORKSHOPS



Niamh Ruiséál

BRMT - Blomberg Rhythmic Movement Training
Saturday 3:15pm - 5:15pm

Niamh started her working life as a General/Sick Children's Nurse. Working in the operating theatre and as a Clinical Teacher in Crumlin Children's Hospital Dublin. She then trained as a Midwife. Her children drew her to Steiner education and she trained as a Kindergarten Teacher in the early 2000's. She worked for 12 years as a Kindergarten Assistant in Raheen Wood Community National School County Clare. Her involvement in the current Kindergarten Teacher Training program introduced her to Blomberg Rhythmic Movement Training (BRMT). This work unites her combined interest in education and health. She currently works one-to-one with children and adults using BRMT to enhance children's learning experience and to help people take hold of their physical body in a more complete way.

BRMT - Blomberg Rhythmic Movement Training, is a rhythmic movements training that helps to remove retained reflexes and create new neurological pathways. It improves motor coordination, supports cognitive function and promotes emotional resilience.

For this workshop you will need a yoga mat and comfortable clothing.

WORKSHOPS



Nell Smyth

Story and Drama: a seedbed for meaningful learning and play

Saturday 3:15pm - 5:15pm

Nell Smyth is a Steiner Waldorf teacher and trainer with over 35 years of experience in primary, secondary and third level Waldorf education, both in Europe and in America. She has backgrounds in theatre and breathwork, and has written numerous plays for children, a number of which are included in the Irish National Theatre Playshare scheme. She is the author of *The Breathing Circle* and *Drama at the Heart: teaching drama in Steiner Waldorf schools*.

Since time out of mind stories have been soul food for human beings. Embracing this potential fully in this workshop we will adventure with how a story, great or small, can be developed from small seeds for a joyful process where inspiration, discovery and resonant depth are our companions, bringing wonder and playfulness no matter the age.

- In this exploration of story, play and theatre making you will discover how:
- to prepare and develop a story with joy and confidence
- to explore a story through drama with movement games and the sensory
- to give wings to images and themes, language and the senses
- to ensure child centred learning through the physical and social art of drama and be developmentally attuned to each age and its needs
- to deepen in supporting the integration of all of our faculties: physical, emotional and cognitive
- to work joyfully from the roots of early play to the turning points of teen years through the universal activity of story and theatre making

WORKSHOPS



Beth Sinicola, Crossfields Institute

A Guide to Student Qualifications

Saturday 3:15pm - 5:15pm

Beth Sinicola is an EQA, IQA and assessment specialist with a background spanning further education, apprenticeships and nationalised assessments. She has worked extensively with awarding bodies and training providers to strengthen quality assurance and ensure fair, transparent assessment practice. Beth has a particular passion for alternative provision and Waldorf education, and in her current role with CFI she supports the development and delivery of the Integrative Education qualification, helping to improve qualification pathways and broaden opportunities for learners.

A Guide to Student Qualifications: this workshop introduces the Crossfields Institute Level 2 Integrative Education qualification and explores how it provides meaningful alternatives to traditional academic routes. Participants will gain practical guidance on designing and carrying out fair and valid formative and summative assessment, with a focus on evidence-led practice that supports learner growth and progression.

WORKSHOPS



Almut Woolard

Clay-modelling - Animals and Human Forms

Saturday 3:15pm - 5:15pm

Introduction to Wood Carving

Sunday 9:30am - 11:30am

Almut works with wood and clay in her South Devon Studio. Her work is inspired by visiting art galleries, travelling, walking in mountains and by the sea. Four years of studying anthroposophy and sculpture at Emerson College in the 80's laid the foundation for her artistic and pedagogical work with wood and clay. Leading and establishing a parent and child group was followed by over 25 years of teaching woodwork, clay-modelling and upper school crafts in the South Devon Steiner School, and teacher training in Europe and Asia.

Working in the sculptural arts is very developmentally important for children. These are very practical, hands-on artistic workshops for everybody interested in using three dimensional art in education. You will touch and be creative with clay and wood as our pupils are from early years to upper school. All welcome, no previous experience necessary.

Saturday - Clay-modelling - Animals and Human Forms

A 2 hour session of practicing with a focus on the step by step process of creating animal and human figures.

Sunday - Introduction to Wood carving

A creative and absorbing introduction to traditional wood carving.

WORKSHOPS



Gordon Woolard

Form Drawing for 4th and 5th Class

Saturday 3:15pm - 5:15pm

Freehand Geometry for 4th and 5th Class

Sunday 9:30am - 11:30am

I've been vegetable grower, beekeeper, woodworker. As stargazer, I've always been occupied with arithmetic and geometry. Having taught physics and mathematics in Waldorf schools, also kindergartener for a time, I now help children with their learning differences, through the development of the senses. This includes doing mathematics for all ages, sometimes through feet and hands. In these tasks I train teachers, mostly overseas, both in-person and online and give workshops for all on Rudolf Steiner's Philosophy of Spiritual Activity, projective geometry, the forms of plants.

Saturday : Form Drawing for 4th and 5th Class

From varied sources I'd like to work through some key forms, showing how you can take a form and develop it further. It's a form-creating process, inviting us to experience and become aware of what lives in movement and gesture. For a teacher, an appreciation of Rudolf Steiner's descriptions of what goes-on unseen through the night, is a decisive help.

Sunday : Freehand Geometry for 4th and 5th Class

Form-drawing and eurythmy are parents of this activity which deepens the child's task to build form into their subtle garment of life. By working freehand we're obliged to meet and shake hands with space itself, showing us what no amount of books can tell. We (the children) become mobile, elastic, shaping ourselves and stretching, as (when we're older) our thinking will be called-upon to do.

For this workshop you will need HB & soft pencils, soft coloured pencils, eraser and sharpener. We won't need rulers. An A4 wallet or holder will keep your work.

WORKSHOPS



Cornelia Kudiabor **Music in Waldorf Education** **Saturday 3:15pm - 5:15pm**

Cornelia grew up in Switzerland in a very rich culture of songs and music. After training as a gardener she studied curative education and holds a diploma as “Waldorf Teacher for Children with Additional Needs”. For over 20 years she has been playing music and singing with children and adults of all different abilities - leading children and adult choirs, therapeutic music sessions, organising sing and play together events, teaching music in classes. She believes that music is a language everyone can understand and use as a means of self expression.

During the workshop we will explore the 12 senses, especially the sense of hearing through music and its importance for the child's development - you will leave the workshop with songs and knowledge of a variety of instruments that can be brought back to the classroom.

WORKSHOPS



Graham Roe

Waldorf Games & Movement

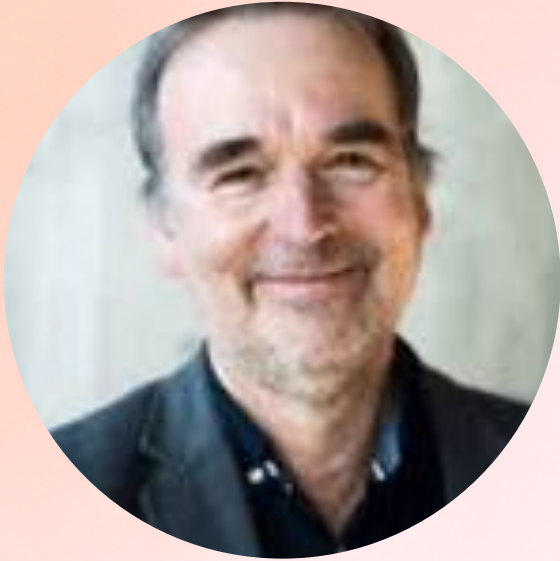
Saturday 3:15pm - 5:15pm

Graham has been interested in movement for many years. He studied Tai Chi with Stuart Breen of the Irish Tai Chi Chuan Association in Dublin, learning the ball form, the sword form, the spiritual form and the short form. Since joining ALFA Steiner Secondary School as the PE teacher Graham has kept up his interest in movement and has taken part in workshops run by Kevin Campbell Davidson (Waldorf Games and Bothmer Movement) and Jaimen McMillan, the founder of Spacial Dynamics. Graham also has been games coordinator and trainer to the athletes (for the class 5 and 6 students), at the last two Steiner Olympic Games in Ireland (2025 and 2023). At ALFA Graham has coached the senior classes (9 & 10), both boys and girls teams, to the quarter finals of the Volleyball Ireland U16 Schools Competition.

In this workshop, we will be playing some new games that I have found students of the older age groups like, Class 5 and 6 up to Class 10. We will also do some exercises from the Spacial Dynamics training that suit all ages. These exercises involve trust and so promote bonding between students.

For this workshop you will need a yoga mat.

WORKSHOPS



Philipp Reubke & Ulrike Farnleitner

Play & Creativity in Early Years Education

Sunday 9:30am - 11:30am

Philipp Reubke was born in Stuttgart. He studied philosophy and German language and literature. From 1989 he worked as a Waldorf teacher in France, first as a German teacher at the Waldorf School in Colmar, later as a Waldorf kindergarten teacher. He is a member of the Hague Circle - International Council for Steiner Waldorf Education. Since October 2020, he has headed the Pedagogical Section at the Goetheanum with Constanza Kaliks

Ulrike Farnleitner is Bláthú's National Development Officer, and a co-founder of Soulscape Training. She has represented Ireland on the council of IASWECE (International Association for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education) for more than thirteen years. In her capacity as Bláthú mentor, she supports EY practitioners, and has been facilitating workshops and CPD, including pedagogical themes as well as arts and crafts, for more than 20 years, both in Ireland and abroad. She facilitates online anthroposophical study groups, and has illustrated and translated a number of children's story books

During our workshop we will explore and dive into our knowledge of these first years in life and the importance of our role in supporting all children. Are there challenges to be noticed? What are the conditions for self directed play? PLAYING helps children weave together all the elements of life as they experience it. It gives them the opportunity to digest life and make it their own. It is an outlet for the fullness of their creativity, and it is vital - absolutely necessary for their health, learning and development.

WORKSHOPS



Marguerite Devane

An Ciorcal, Kindergarten Songs and Movement in Irish

Sunday 9:30am - 11:30am

Marguerite Devane trained as a primary teacher in Ireland and then as a kindergarten teacher in Wynstones School in the UK. She has worked as the lead Kindergarten teacher in Raheen Wood Community National School for the past 22 years. She lives in East Clare.

Marguerite's workshop will share the practices and materials she has developed over the years which allow the songs and games of the morning circle to become a natural and joyful way of immersing children in the sounds and rhythms of the Irish language. A basic knowledge of Irish will be helpful - but not essential!

Roinnfidh ceardlann Marguerite na cleachtais agus na hábhair atá forbartha aici thar na blianta a thugann deis d'amhráin agus do chluichí chiorcal na maidine a bheith ina mbealach nádúrtha agus lúcháireach chun leanaí a thumadh i fuaimeanna agus rithimí na Gaeilge.

WORKSHOPS



Larissa Manley

Drama & Wellbeing, an emphasis on the adolescent years

Sunday 9:30am - 11:30am

Larissa directs and produces the Drama Main Lessons. Larissa is also developing and facilitating the wellbeing curriculum at ALFA, adapting to the needs of the students, encouraging reflection and self-knowledge, building self-confidence and support within the classroom. She incorporates theatre methodologies such as puppetry, masks, storytelling and physical theatre into her work which is integrated across other subjects.

Drama as a tool to explore social and personal learning with adolescents. Drama builds connection and breaks down walls. Through play we can direct our gaze towards possibilities and new perspectives through a lens we build together.

In this workshop we will learn how to use drama as a tool in the classroom - We will work with games and exercises that help overcome fears and foster a sense of play through physical release and collaboration. We will then explore drama exercises and improvisations that help us celebrate diversity and themes of respect and communication.

WORKSHOPS



Sile Prendergast

An Introduction to Sacred Geometry

Sunday 9:30am - 11:30am

Sile taught Leaving Cert Biology and Junior Cert Science in Dundalk for 14 years. After bringing her children to experience Steiner Education in Raheen Wood Community National School she then became one of the founding teachers of the ALFA Project and taught Biology and Maths there for many years. Retirement has given her time to explore her interest in Sacred Geometry. "Exploring the circle and drawing the patterns and forms held within is deeply nurturing and gives us a little window into understanding the origin of form."

In this workshop we will be focusing on some of the archetypal forms that underpin creation, we will bring these to life on the page with our straight edge, compass and pencils.

For this workshop you will need a compass, ruler, pencil and coloured pencils

BOOKINGS

Conference Booking is available [HERE](#) through Eventbrite



**FULL
WEEKEND
€140**

Includes two workshop sessions, food and refreshments on arrival, Saturday night dinner, Sunday lunch

**Early Booking Discount €110
Until Wednesday 17th September**

**Single Day Tickets also available
Sat €80 & Sun €65**

Includes one workshop session, refreshments, Saturday dinner as an option.

Booking Form Procedure

Once you have selected and paid for your ticket, you'll be taken to a further information page to give your contact details and record your Workshop choices.