



EDINBURGH  
STEINER  
SCHOOL

## **Bruce Houldsworth**

Class Teacher. Chair of Digital Literacy Group

### **Studies/Career/interests overview:**

My science background took me into a 15 year career in Environmental Science, principally working with industrial clients to solve problems of land contamination. I discovered Steiner Teaching, and it lit up my life with possibilities of expressing more parts of my being, working with young people and contributing to the world in a real and human way.

Since qualifying, I have been a Class Teacher but I've also taught maths and sciences in the Upper School. I have particular interests in bringing Digital Literacy in an age appropriate manner, and in developing positive and engaging responses to the challenges of the Climate Change.

BSc(hons) Biochemistry, MSc Pollution and Environmental Control, Steiner Teacher Training (2004), PGDip (GTCS) (2020).

### **What do you feel makes Waldorf Steiner education so special/relevant in the 21st Century:**

The world requires so much creativity, and creative thinking. Our children will end up with jobs that have not yet been conceived of, or named. Mainstream education is unfortunately very good at incidentally and accidentally educating away that creative spark in children that I particularly love.

Steiner's wisdom permeates the broad brush curriculum, and charges the teacher with the responsibility to implement and adapt this curriculum to meet the needs of the pupils in front of them. Waldorf Steiner education is infused with creativity; it is a process of interplay of pupil and teacher, with the potential to uplift both in joyful discovery. Waldorf Steiner education is therefore particularly well placed to meet the future.

**What special skill/interest/experience do you feel you can bring to the school community/classroom:**

My 15+ years in science and 15+ years in teaching are coming together as I grapple with appropriate responses to climate change, that work to develop pupil understanding without risking pupil hope and ensuring agency – the ability to feel we can make a difference.

I've picked up a deep understanding of information technology on the way, which I can feed into the Digital Literacy group; age-appropriate encounters with digital media can support a developing understanding, that develops both discernment and an understanding of the potential uses of the digital world as a tool for human endeavour.

**What is the useful lesson/hardest learnt lesson from your own schooling:**

Looking back on my own (mainstream, state) schooling, I can see I absorbed facts spectacularly well. I did very well academically. Dutifully.

Now, I notice the disconnections in how I learned - between fields of study, between pupils, between staff. These separated fields of knowledge were ultimately unsatisfying, and left me seeking more connection.

I cherish the relevance of the Steiner curriculum to the world and to the individual pupil. I cherish the sense of community, within the classroom, the teaching body, the parent body. I love how the curriculum meets and engages the child – I can see from the children's faces just how they welcome the lessons, and how they move and awaken them.