



Finance and Education

Spiritual insight as public benefit

A short but comprehensive course concerning finance and education, with particular reference to the Waldorf movement and Rudolf Steiner's insights in this regard.

Sundays, 10.30am to 5.30pm at Rudolf Steiner House, London.

The Waldorf movement is facing growing pressures, the essence of which is to undermine a free spiritual life. Many of the pressures are financial in guise, but that means they are threshold phenomena, challenging Waldorf education to renew its spiritual covenants.

In these three stand-alone but connected events, key themes will be addressed from the point of view of Rudolf Steiner's approach to economic life (associative economics). Hosted by the *Centre for Associative Economics* in liaison with the *London Waldorf Trust*, the one-day gatherings will take a hard and detailed look at three main areas of a practical nature that call not only for spiritual insights but for the kind of working conversations that give rise to intuitions.

25 October | Spiritual Sovereignty

Understood as a threshold phenomenon, finance is an instrument of one's I. Financial and spiritual sovereignty are two sides of one coin. Both presuppose certain understandings:

- *The concept of **res publica** and its expression in collegiate working*
- *The importance of seeing all human activity, not just education, as vocational*
- *The need to remunerate according to circumstances (the 'fundamental social law')*
- *Carriers of initiatives should also be responsible for their balance sheets*

15 November | Financial Literacy

The key to matching financial and spiritual sovereignty lies in financial literacy, which today should be a life skill akin to driving a car and is now a 'must' in many schools, with teachers, administrators and governors alike under ever-growing pressure to adhere to finance's strictures.

- *The history of money and accounting*
- *Rudolf Steiner's concept of 'gift money' as a modern way of using up excess capital (hence the idea of freely funded education)*
- *Understanding double entry book-keeping (the monetary equivalent to perspective in art)*

13 December | Public Benefit

Recent changes to charity law and the introduction of public benefit testing are aimed at getting rid of private schools. Initial rulings would create a default definition of 'public benefit' as the provision of a significant proportion of free places, an economic outcome that few if any Waldorf schools could survive. Can the case not be made, instead, that public benefit occurs whenever an individual takes an initiative in service of humanity? So that it inheres, for example, in the provision of socially beneficial education rather than wealth redistribution?

- *The nature and rationale of recent changes to charity law*
- *The meaning of 'public benefit'*
- *Reviewing the relevance of charities*
- *Rethinking the financing of education (Is there a path between private and state funding?)*

Coordinated by *Dr. Christopher Houghton Budd*, the course is intended for teachers and would-be teachers, school administrative staff, bookkeepers and accountants, and those responsible for governance. Conceived as professional development, it will combine conventional understandings of finance with Rudolf Steiner's approach and aims to be two-way, providing a thorough backgrounding in the topics covered, but encouraging also feedback and the sharing of experience by participants.

Cost: £50 per day (£135 all three).

For questions, further information and registration, please contact Anita Murphy c/o anitamurphy@live.co.uk or from the address below.

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