

Salamander Shop @York Steiner School

Project Aim

The school shop *Salamander* has been established for a number of years and offers a welcoming and warm environment for parents, children and staff of the school. Theolyn and her team create seasonal displays supporting the festival calendar and also reflecting the anthroposophical values of the community.

Salamander aims to provide a literal shop front for the various communities to learn more about Steiner and our school.

It does this firstly by providing a common meeting ground for parents, be they volunteers or customers, to share their knowledge of the school.

Secondly by promoting the principle of volunteering within the school.

Thirdly by attracting training and educational courses to the school and recommending or stocking certain products for the students of those courses.

The shop may also aim to attract more customers from the wider (non school) community in the future (see ideas).

The products Salamander stock either support Steiner philosophy (e.g. Weleda, Stockmar, Camphill) or are natural or fairly traded (eg Suma) thus focusing on the ethos of the school.

The shop hopes to make a small profit financially whilst also retaining the above values.

Project objectives

As the shop is well established it's role has previously been defined clearly, by council and Carrie (the previous manager). The balance between a typical 'for profit' shop and an enlightened approach to the retail possibilities at Salamander is a fine one. Everybody has a different opinion on this!

Consequently some of the shop's aims are not measurable but have been achieved in part by focussing on the school's ethos. The aims are realistic and can be further fine tuned within 12 months?

No doubt Salamander's role can evolve further and be redefined in part whilst still retaining it's uniqueness in the 21st century

Members

Manager

Theolyn (paid 10hrs per week)

Volunteers

Liz, Schoukroun,

Francesca Brunton,
Ann Ciechanowski
Louisa Machado, Claire, Cooper,
Joanne Head,
Mel England,
Celeste Murray-Tereszczuk,
Maria Fooks
Sally Poulten,
Sue Richardson,
Amanda Waggett
Becky Mihill,
Daisy Douwes,
Sarah Dixon

Associates

Joan Holbeck (mentor)
Annabel Gibb and Jacky Miles (books)
Michael Rose (shop fittings!)
Hannah Glover and craft group (supply seasonal items)
Office team (invoices etc)

Meetings

Daily during term time i.e. daily shifts when the shop is open to all.
The shop team also aims to meet once a term.

Ideas list

pool of trained volunteers to cover absences and allow for longer opening hours etc.
operations manual plus list of suppliers.
new cash register.
hands on craft/customer help sessions to learn about Steiner products
e.g. wet on wet painting.
Meeting with home educators groups.
Product reviewers (you have to buy your own products!)

Resources

experienced crafters and inexperienced participants
photographers,
marketing people,
people to liaise with other Steiner school shops and also local camphill communities
eg Botton and Malton,
people to source more economically priced products.

Links to other groups

craft group
suppliers
other Steiner school shops (these links not established yet).
liaising with Plymouth, NESTT and “Nurturing creativity” courses.

Involving the rest of the community

Very similar to the ideas list, longer opening hours including enquirer's mornings and covering times between parent and toddler, kindergarten, end of school etc to allow more opportunities for people to build relationships and learn more about the school.