

Why education needs to be transformed

“The fact is that given the challenges we face, education doesn’t need to be reformed -- it needs to be transformed. The key to this transformation is not to standardize education, but to personalize it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.”

— Ken Robinson, *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything*



“Much education today is monumentally ineffective. All too often we are giving young people cut flowers when we should be teaching them to grow their own plants. ”

— John W. Gardner

Our History

The parents and supporters who envisioned ALFA in 2000 recognised the need for a programme that would prepare students for life in a way that the traditional, exam-based, junior cycle curriculum could not.

“Receive the children in reverence, educate them in love, and send them forth in freedom.”

— Rudolf Steiner

Preparing for exams does not prepare students for life!

When was the last time that you had to take an exam in your professional life? For most of us, the answer would be never. But think about the last time that you needed to trouble-shoot, collaborate and think critically? For many of us, these skills are needed on a daily basis.

Schools should prepare students to succeed in the real world outside of the school walls. At ALFA, our students engage in authentic, creative projects that exercise these real life skills and pave the way for their success in all walks of life.



Students working on the culminating activity for a unit on politics and governance – planning their own nation!

How students learn at ALFA

Our team of experienced teachers, tutors and artisans offers an authentic, project-based learning programme that develops the hands, hearts and minds of our students.

By working with blacksmiths, potters, woodworkers, beekeepers, organic farmers, musicians, performers and more, our students develop key 21st century skills such as collaboration, communication, problem-solving and critical thinking

Main subjects such as science, history, maths, English and Irish are integrated and inform the projects that the students are engaged in. Students not only learn subject matter and important 21st century skills, but they also leave ALFA with confidence and a heightened sense of their own capacity to create, shape and build – both literally and metaphorically..



Students building raised-bed frames for the organic garden.

Our Mission

ALFA aims:

- To support young people in their quest to understand the world.
- To deepen their experience of their own humanity.
- To encourage enlightened thinking – providing our students with the tools and the environment to develop their capacity to think creatively and critically.
- To foster warmth towards others that allows the emergence of empathy and the ability to act in a conscientious and generous manner in the world..
- To develop strength of will – so they can put their ideas into action & take initiative.
- To give young people confidence in their own abilities.
- To engender a love for learning and a love for living.

Who We Are

About Us

Raheen Wood Steiner Secondary School, home of ALFA, provides a full-time, progressive education for 12--17 year olds in East Clare. We also offer study abroad options and EFL courses for international students.

Contact Us

Phone: 061- 640798

Email: alfaproject77@gmail.com

Web: www.alfaproject.org



"Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire." – W.B. Yeats



RAHEEN WOOD STEINER SECONDARY SCHOOL/ALFA

An activity of Ard Aoi bhinn Community Initiatives, Ltd

Registration number 352829 Registered Charity No. 14535

Raheen Road

Tuamgraney, Co. Clare



**ALFA/RAHEEN
WOOD STEINER
SECONDARY
SCHOOL**

*Active Learning for Adolescents
in East Clare*