



EDINBURGH
STEINER
SCHOOL

Mike Palmer

Short career overview:

After some years teaching in Spain and South America I joined the civil service, where I have worked both in Whitehall and the Scottish Government over the last 26 years. During this time I have carried out a variety of roles developing and implementing government policies in areas ranging from science and technology to reform of local government, public health, social inclusion and, latterly, sea fisheries. My current responsibilities include oversight in the Scottish Government for overseeing matters relating to Brexit in the marine sphere.

What is your connection to Edinburgh Steiner School:

My two sons attended the school from Kindergarten to Class 12, the youngest graduating in 2015. During much of that time my wife, Lucila Machado, taught at the Kindergarten, from 2001 to 2012.

What do you feel makes ESS special/relevant in the 21st century:

The ESS produces rounded and self-confident young adults, grounded in both their bodies and their minds and rich in curiosity and creativity. They possess strong values, an international outlook and an openness and flexibility which in my view equips them particularly well to face the challenges and opportunities of life in a contemporary world which increasingly demands adaptability and agility underpinned by a calm and assured sense of self. But most importantly, Steiner graduates are rich in imagination, an attribute which is vital for the world in the 21st century.

How do you feel your skills/experience can contribute to/support the school:

I seek to use my professional experience working in government to help benefit the school in a number of ways. I have a considerable background in matters of governance, management, leadership, negotiation and financial oversight which I bring to my contribution as trustee. I also have experience working as part of a team in both executive and non-executive capacities on other boards and committees which I seek to use to enhance my role as a trustee. Aside from this, I am able to support the school by liaising with government on technical matters such as developments in policy and legislation which might affect the school.