

PROSPECTUS

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Maria Montessori's aim was to help children attain their maximum learning potential, while becoming well balanced individuals able to cope with the emotional, social and practical pressures of modern day living.

Each child in a Montessori School is treated with respect and experiences freedom within the limits of a carefully prepared environment. The method uses a range of high quality didactic material. These encourage the child to develop his/her own problem solving skills.

There are several categories of didactic material:

'Practical Life'



‘Mathematics’ (numeracy, problem solving and reasoning)



‘Sensorial’



‘Creativity’



‘Communication, Language and Literacy’



As well as materials to enhance the child’s interest in:



History – Timeline of a child’s day

Geography



Nature and Science



Children choose their own activities and materials and decide for themselves whether to work/play alone, in pairs or in a small group.

The children make progress at their **own** pace. The Montessori approach looks for more than retention of knowledge. It encourages independence, self-discipline, development of the senses, social skills, social manners and behaviour, physical co-ordination, and stimulates language and creativity.

Montessori education provides children with a real love of learning that can remain with them for the rest of their lives.

In the words of the child:-

‘I hear and I forget’
‘I see and I remember’
‘I do and I understand’

REGULAR OPEN AFTERNOONS

The school holds regular open afternoons. These are open to all parents and carers of children aged under 5 years. If you would like to come along to one of these open afternoons, you will need to return the Register of Interest form in the 'Apply for a Place' section of the website.

ANNUAL OPEN DAY

The school holds an annual open day and parents already on the waiting list are automatically invited. Montessori material is presented and displayed and all the staff are available to answer questions about any aspect of our school life.

RECORD KEEPING

A Progress Record and photograph scrapbook is prepared for each child. These are based on individual and group observations. These are shared with parents and carers of the child between 24 and 36 months (depending on the age the child started), 30-50 months and a transfer document prepared for 40-60 months when the child leaves us. They can also be viewed on request between these times.

All records are prepared using the Early Years Foundation Stage as the reference criteria. This ensures a seamless transfer to the child's next school.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

The school has a 1:4 child/teacher ratio for 2 year olds and 1:8 ratio for 3 to 5 year olds. All staff are qualified or are in training in Montessori and in addition may hold other equivalent qualifications. They also hold comprehensive, continuing professional development portfolios.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

School hours are from:

9.00am to 12.30pm

9.00 am to 2.30 pm

9.00am to 4.00pm

We also offer an early start of 8.45am and late finish of 4.15pm from Monday to Thursday incl.

Year 1 children (younger children who are in their first year with us) need to attend a minimum of 2 morning sessions per. week. To ease the transition from home to Montessori School, new 2 year old children start with introductory sessions of 2 hours per session and progress to 3½ hour sessions within half a term.

Children extend their day to 2.30 p.m. at the start of the term after they turn 3 years old.

The above sessions are minimum requirements and parents can enrol their children for longer hours and more days than those above.

Year 2 children (children in the year before they go on to reception class) need to attend a minimum of 2 full day sessions per week, (equivalent to 4 sessions.)

Year 3 children (Reception Year) ideally need to attend a minimum of 3 full days per week. Whenever possible we advise you to book for a minimum of 4/5 days.

There is a **£20 registration fee - £10 for siblings** - (non-refundable).
A deposit of **£50** is required on acceptance of a place. This will be deducted from the first term's fees. This is non-refundable if the place is not taken up.

A full term's notice of the child being removed from the school is required or a full term's fees in lieu, i.e. Autumn, Spring or Summer Term.

We have one or two educational trips during the year which are additional to the fees and days in lieu and refunds cannot be offered if it coincides with a day your child is normally in school.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND TAX-FREE CHILDCARE

We are a registered provider of Nursery Education Funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. The 3/4 year old funding is currently being paid from the term following a child's 3rd birthday. Children may stay here until the end of the term in which they have reached their 5th birthday.

The 3/4 year old Funding provides free early years entitlement for either 15 hours per week or 16-30 hours per week for working parents who qualify.

Parents can also apply for the government's tax-free childcare which offers working parents a 20% top-up to help pay for childcare costs.

For full details on both schemes see www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

THE CURRICULUM

The material is designed for children to start at the age of 2–2½ years old. It is not necessary for children to attend other types of pre-school establishment as well as Montessori School. We provide everything that 2-5 year old children need to develop in mind, body and spirit. The entire programme of learning is purposefully structured (although the children are not aware of this background structure, they just know they enjoy everything they choose to do). Optimum benefits will be achieved by a child who is here for a minimum of 2 years for at least three sessions per week in the appropriate age brackets (*see above*).

We provide a happy, healthy and educational environment where children are loved and nurtured and can feel safe and secure during their parents' absence.

The Montessori curriculum fully covers, and in most areas exceeds, the Government's Early Learning Goals in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

COUNTY COUNCIL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

It is a requirement of the Nursery School's Registration that concerns regarding the welfare of children are shared with the Safeguarding Children's Board.

It is also a requirement of the Nursery School's Registration that we provide care for all children in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Welfare Requirements.