

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 along, 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’

The school holds annual open evenings and parents of children who are already on the waiting list are automatically invited to one of the open evenings. Material is

presented and displayed and all of the staff available to answer questions about any aspect of our school life.

Progress conferences are held regularly with parents of children who are attending the school. 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. The school operates a training centre for students studying for internationally recognised Montessori qualifications.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

School hours are from 9.00am to 12.30pm and 9.00am to 4.00pm.

(Please be punctual for your child's sake).

We also offer a tea session until 5.00pm.

Year 1 children need to attend a minimum of 3 morning sessions per week, *(minimum sessions for 2 year olds can be negotiated according to personal circumstances).*

Year 2 children need to attend a minimum of 3 full day sessions per week, (equivalent to 6 sessions).

Year 3 children (Reception Year) need to attend an absolute minimum of 3 full day sessions per week. Whenever possible we advise you to book for a minimum of 5 sessions as it is not usually possible to increase sessions until the following September. To ease the transition from home to Montessori School the younger new children start with introductory sessions of 2 hours per session and progress to 3 hour sessions when they are ready. A parent toddler group is also available.

We are a registered provider of Nursery Education Funding. This 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 Funding provides for a free place of not less than 3 hours per session, five sessions per week, for 38 weeks in the year. Any additional fees are for extended sessions and Montessori integrated services.

The material is designed for children to start at the age of 2 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 obtained by a child who completes a minimum of 2½ to 3 years and ideally will be here for a minimum of 2 years for the child to develop successfully towards his/her full potential.

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 Every Child Matters legislation.