

Class structures

Montessori education advocates mixed age classrooms. In this way vertical learning can take place, with older children act as role models to younger children. The younger children love learning from an older peer and the older child benefits from the responsibility and leadership role they take on. A mixed age environment helps children to develop well rounded personalities. Much like in the home and workplace, throughout life we interact with people from different age groups. An advantage of multi-age classrooms with students of varying abilities and interests—is that it allows each child to work at their own pace. Students whose strengths and interests propel them to higher levels of learning can find intellectual challenge without being separated from their peers. The same is true for students who may need extra guidance and support: each child can progress through the curriculum at their own comfortable pace, without feeling pressure to "catch up."

As a guide, we admit **10 children per year group**. The table below illustrates which class your child would be due to enter based on their age. Please note that we reserve the right to place children in classes outside these age brackets and in accordance to the environment we feel best meets their needs.

Age as 31 August	Class at CMS	State school comparison
2 years	Toddler Community / Preparatory class	Nursery
3 years	Year 1 student in 3-6 children's house	Nursery
4 years	Year 2 student in 3-6 children's house	Reception
5 years	Year 3 student in 3-6 children's house	Year 1
6 years	Year 1 student in Lower Elementary	Year 2
7 years	Year 2 student in Lower Elementary	Year 3
8 years	Year 3 student in Lower Elementary	Year 4
9 years	Year 1 student in Upper Elementary	Year 5
10 years	Year 2 student in Upper Elementary	Year 6
11 years	Seniors Year 3 student in Upper Elementary	Year 7

Age as 31 August	Class at CMS	State school comparison
12 years	Year 1 student in Cardiff Montessori High	Year 8
13 years	Year 2 student in Cardiff Montessori High	Year 9
14 years- GCSE year	Year 3 student in Cardiff Montessori High	Year 10
15 years- GCSE year	Year 4 student in Cardiff Montessori High	Year 11