



# Cardiff Montessori School Prospectus 22-23

PLANTING SEEDS, GROWING ASPIRATIONS

# About Us

Welcome to Cardiff's first Montessori School! The Montessori approach was developed by Dr Maria Montessori, an expert in child development and three times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Our school strives to foster learners with academic excellence, emotional and social well being, life skills, global citizenship and spirituality & purpose. Cultivating self-directed and resilient learners with a strong social conscious.

CMS opened in 2016 in Insole court, Llandaff. At the time we had just 12 students in the primary school and the majority of students in the nursery section. CMS quickly become a leading provider of Montessori primary provision in the UK, attracting staff from across the world and students from across the UK. In November 2022, the school relocated to Llanishen. The new site provided the much needed space for the growth of the school with space for expansion into secondary.





## The local area

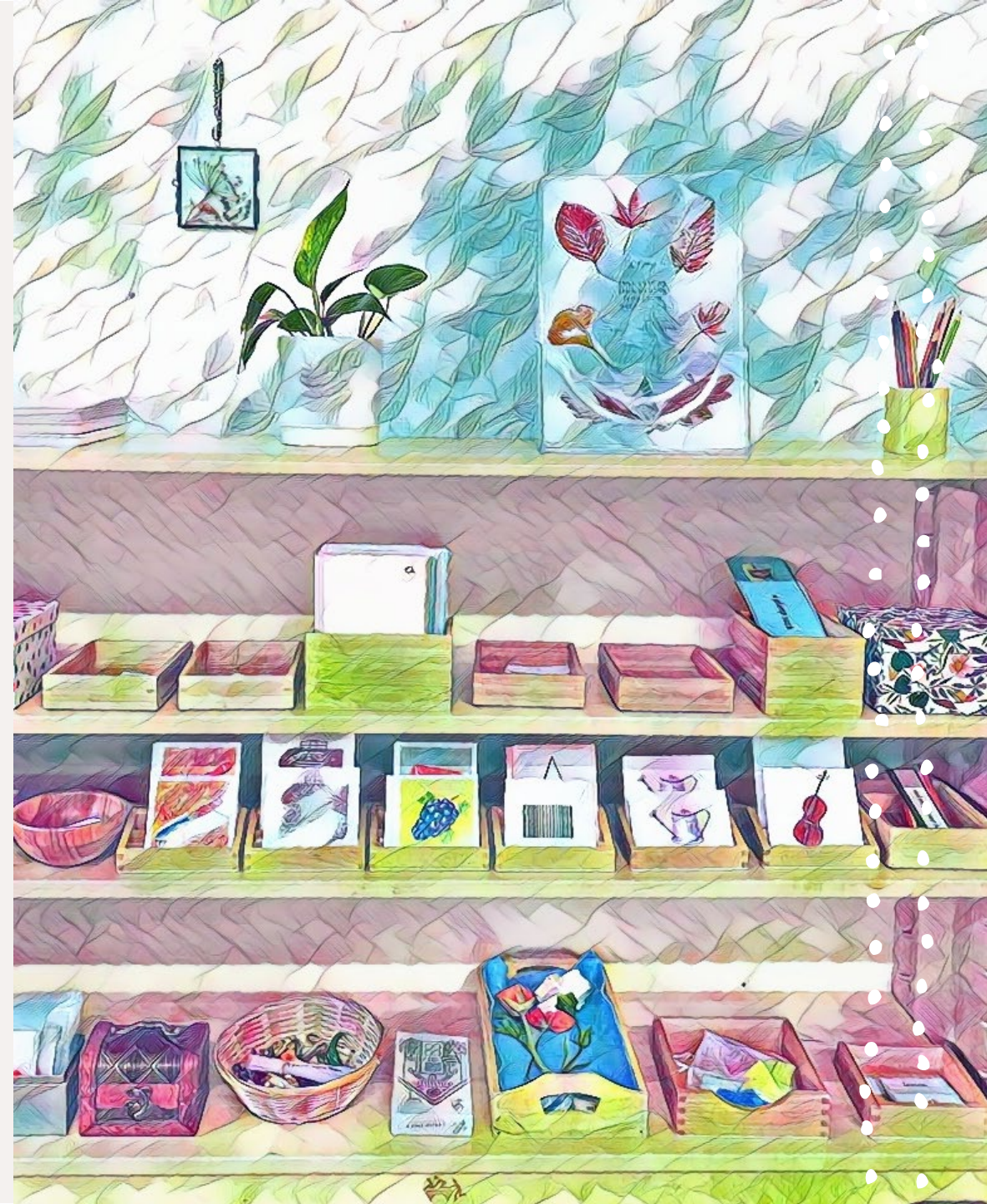
The school site is located in close proximity to a number of shops. There is a children's therapy centre and trampoline park opposite the school and a block of offices adjacent to the building. There are a number of beautiful parks within a short distance- Heath park, Cefn Onn park, Roath park and Llanishen reservoir. We are also thrilled to have a leisure centre on our door step with excellent facilities.

The closest train stations are Ty Glas, Birchgrove and Llanishen.



# Our school values

- **Be Kind:** Being kind often requires courage and strength. Kindness is a willingness to full-heartedly celebrate someone else's successes. Kindness is also about telling the truth in a gentle way so it is helpful to the other person.
- **Be Honest:** Without honesty there is no foundation for a lasting or enjoyable relationship in any context. Integrity depends on honesty. Integrity is doing what is right even when it is not easy and not popular.
- **Be Respectful:** Respect involves accepting difference not merely tolerating difference. Respect leads to better understand and communication.
- **Be Responsible:** Responsibility is essential for smooth and effective operation. It requires all parties to take ownership of their duties and accept the impact of their actions on others.
- **Be Montessori:** Montessori education is different. It nurtures each child's individual strengths and interests. It is about encouraging children to explore and understand the world and equipping them not just academically but with life skills, self-awareness and resilience. It is about ensuring they are ready for higher education and the challenges of life in real and meaningful ways. It is a complete outlook on education and childhood and not just a curriculum.



# Our approach



Students are taught how to be independent, self-directed learners, each responsible for following their own individualised learning plan. We want to develop students who are able to think outside the box and apply skills to ever evolving challenges. Montessori education places great focus on concrete learning and hands on materials in the early years. These materials become more and more abstract as the students get older. We aim to ensure that students have a solid and concrete understanding of concepts before the passage to abstraction. Education should not be compartmentalised artificially into subject areas. We welcome the shift to a more integrated approach to learning called for in the new curriculum for Wales. A content-focused curriculum does not guarantee meaningful learning, only that certain topics are covered to varying extents; instead, Montessori education has always focused on concepts and agrees with the statement in the new Curriculum for Wales that the essence of learning should underpin a range of different topics, learning activities and acquisition of knowledge.

Central to this approach is encouraging children to be independent every step of the way. We believe the child's needs are articulated as "Help me to do it for myself" in the first 6 years, "Help me to think for myself" in the 6-12 years and finally "Help us to do for ourselves" in the 13-16 phase, when the focus of these adolescents is to make meaningful and impactful change together as a community. From preparing their own snacks at age 2, to planning their own outings at age 6, and running their own enterprise at age 13, Montessori education truly has the development of independence and life skills at its core.

PHOTOS: Top left- Esmá Izzidien (Head of School), Top right- Claire Waters (Deputy Head and 6-12 Lead), Bottom right- Abigail Eynon (Deputy Head and Safeguarding Lead), Bottom left- Sally Bashir (Accounts & Legal Manager)



**Our classes**

# The 2-3 Toddler Community

The toddler community is a small class of 10 children led by a Montessori teacher. It is a nurturing environment, that allows children to develop independence, motor control and language. The environment places great emphasis on the social and emotional development of the child. It is a preparatory class for entering the 3-6 Children's House. The space is divided into various curriculum areas such as practical life, early language, movement and balance and a rest & relaxation area.

Parents can choose to send their child 3, 4 or 5 days a week, ideally these days should be consecutive to aid the child settling in to the school routine.

Children do not yet have to be toilet independent to be admitted to this class. Our trained staff will work with you to help develop your child's independence so that they are toilet independent by the time they are ready to move to the 3-6 class.

Attendance in the 2-3 class does not guarantee children a place in the 3-6 class. However, children in the 2-3 class are given priority over children not in attendance at CMS.



"A child who has become master of his acts through long and repeated exercises, and who has been encouraged by the pleasant and interesting activities in which he has been engaged, is a child filled with health and joy and remarkable for his calmness and discipline."

Dr. Maria Montessori | The Discovery of the Child,, p. 92



# The 3-6 Children's House

Our 3-6 class is known as The Children's Casa (translated as 'Children's house'). The class admits 30 children (typically 10 per year group) aged 3, 4 and 5 up to the age of 6. Children all attend full time, however, if your child is aged 3 or 4 part time attendance can be considered. Children progress through the Montessori 'curriculum' of Activities of Every Day Living (Practical life), Education of the Senses, Language and Literacy, Numeracy and Knowledge and Understanding of the world in addition to engaging in creative work. The day begins with an uninterrupted work cycle, which is the hallmark of a Montessori Classroom. This is a time where children independently work with the guidance of their teachers. The cycle allows children to develop concentration and self-discipline in addition to establishing a Montessori work ethic for example, recognizing the importance of putting away work in the way they found it and that they must wait for a classmate to finish with a piece of equipment before they can use it.

After the work cycle children gather together for lunch and then enjoy outdoor play. After lunch they return for a second work cycle. On some days instead of the work cycle they may participate in extra curricular activities such as forest school.



“This is education, understood as a help to life; an education from birth, which feeds a peaceful revolution and unites all in a common aim, attracting them as to a single centre. Mothers, fathers, politicians: all must combine in their respect and help for this delicate work of formation, which the little child carries on in the depth of a profound psychological mystery, under the tutelage of an inner guide. This is the bright new hope for mankind.”

Dr. Maria Montessori | The Absorbent Mind, p. 15

# The 6-12 Elementary

The Elementary comprises of Lower Elementary (Typically years 2, 3 and 4) and Upper Elementary (typically years 5, 6 and 7). With roughly 10 children admitted per year group. In the Elementary the children's focus shifts from individual formation, to development as social beings and the direction of their explorations of the world tends to the abstract. The materials they use in their language work and mathematics become more abstract at each step, making this passage from the concrete to the abstract seamless.

As the Absorbent Mind disappears, a new way of relating to the environment and a new power of mind becomes manifest. The children's appetite for knowledge is immense. Montessori proposed that the Elementary students should be presented with the universe and all that is in it through the five great lessons. Through these stories we unfold the drama of the universe: the earth coming into existence, the furnishing of the earth with plants and animals (life-forms), the arrival of human beings, and the great achievements of human beings (written language and mathematics). The five great lessons introduce the students to history, zoology, botany, geography and the sciences. They find areas of interest to research and explore further. They are not limited by a rigid curriculum and can take their studies to great depths. They organise research trips themselves to gather needed information and develop their social and practical skills.

They take ownership and responsibility for their learning- recording their chosen work and meeting fortnightly with their teacher one to one to review their progress, targets and objectives.



“Education should not limit itself to seeking new methods for a mostly arid transmission of knowledge: its aim must be to give the necessary aid to human development.... If ‘the formation of man’ becomes the basis of education, then the coordination of all schools from infancy to maturity, from nursery to university, arises as a first necessity: for man is a unity, an individuality that passes through interdependent phases of development. Each preceding phase prepares the one that follows, forms its base, nurtures the energies that urge towards the succeeding period of life.”

Dr. Maria Montessori | From Childhood to Adolescence, p. 84

# Fees

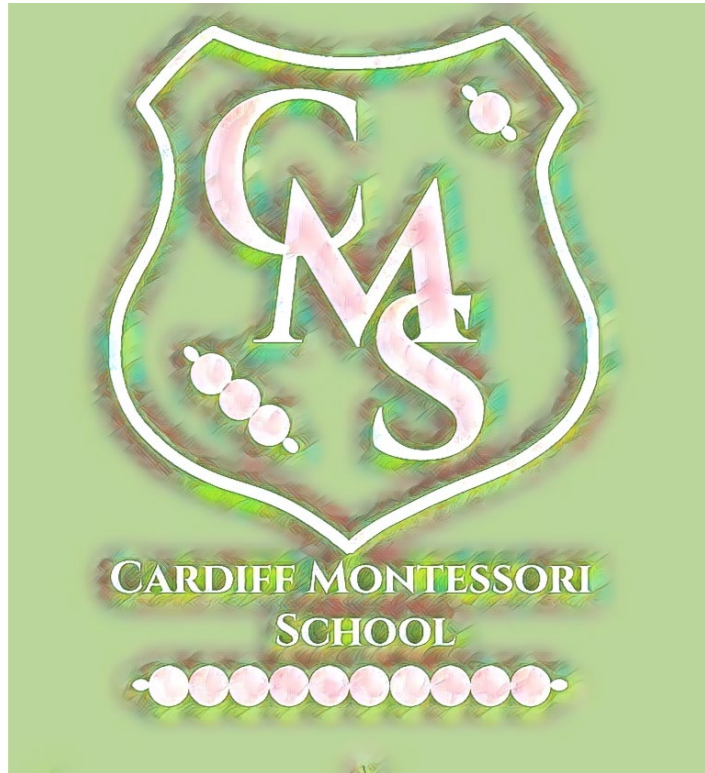
Please see our fee information sheet for further details.

Fees pcm in the 2-3 class are £450 for 3 days, £600 for 4 days or £750 for 5 days. (The school is open 40 weeks of the year, therefore fees equates to roughly £45 for a full day 8:30am to 3:15pm)

Fees in the primary school (full time) for ages 3-11 are £650 pcm.

Fees for seniors (Upper elementary Year 7 students) are £700 pcm/





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**[www.cms.cardiff.sch.uk](http://www.cms.cardiff.sch.uk)**

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