

“If the idea of the universe be presented to the child in the right way, it will do more for him than just arouse interest, for it will create in him admiration and wonder, a feeling loftier than any interest and more satisfying...”

-Dr Maria Montessori, To Educate the Human Potential

Montessori beyond age 6

The highly developed AMI Montessori curriculum in this plane of child development is both academically challenging and rewarding.

The AMI curriculum does not compartmentalise academic learning but is interdisciplinary in nature and allows the child to pursue their academic interests while ensuring at the same time that they receive a comprehensive and outstanding overall education in the full range of subjects required by the National Curriculum.

The aim of the Primary is to encourage each child to fulfil their potential by developing a lively and enquiring mind, a sense of self-esteem and a self-discipline which comes from working in a happy, orderly and stimulating environment.

Characteristics of Primary Child

Primary children can be typically characterised by their questioning minds, their ability to abstract and imagine, their moral and social orientation and their unlimited energy for research and exploration.

As such children in the Primary are ready for more complex work which is catered for in large part by the initial introduction of new materials, after which they are encouraged to do further research. These materials are used to both stimulate the child's interest as well as to assist in the development of the imagination in order to embrace concepts beyond the child's immediate environment.

Primary children in the Montessori classroom work individually or in small groups on a variety of themes and/or projects which spark the imagination and engage the intellect.

Role of Teacher

Key lessons will be given by the teacher whose main role will be to guide the children in their research of the various aspects of the curriculum as well as to ensure that no particular area of the curriculum is overlooked.

The role of the teacher is also to support the child's increasing awareness that every aspect of the curriculum, the world around us and the universe at large in fact, are all interrelated.

To assist them in this process the children will learn how to make full use of a library, reference books and the worldwide web.



Subjects

Core subjects include English, mathematics, science, biology, botany, history and geography. Integrated with these are activities such as art, drama, music and games/physical education. Specialist teachers will be brought in where necessary. Swimming lessons will also be introduced during the Spring and Summer terms.

Outings

Outings are especially important and encouraged in the Primary as this can be another good way to support research being done in the classroom. Going to the library in small groups will be done on a regular basis. In addition, there will be at least one whole class excursion per term.

Entrance Exams

Preparation for entrance exams will be offered on an individual basis if/when necessary.

Beyond Primary

Primary pupils will go on to both independent and maintained secondary schools

Recommended Reading

The following books by Dr Maria Montessori and Dr Mario Montessori provide essential background reading:

- The Absorbent Mind
- The Secret of Childhood
- The Discovery of the Child
- The Formation of Man
- To Educate the Human Potential
- Advanced Montessori Method – Book 1
- Education for Human Development

Montessori Education in the Primary Years

Montessori education for the over fives - learning for life and living to learn

How your child will benefit from staying in a Montessori school after the age of four or five:

- Continuity and development of learning experiences and approaches, following on from their nursery classes within a familiar environment and similar routines, and based entirely on your child's needs
- Makes the most of your child's individual capabilities through promoting free thinking, self motivation and independent learning across the curriculum
- Ability to embrace challenges with curiosity and enthusiasm by choosing, trying and doing things for themselves
- Develops their capacity to manage learning by formulating their own weekly work plan and giving them the opportunity to choose how to manage their activities in delivering this. As they grow older, a more complex management of time and tasks is introduced
- A curriculum which not only meets the full requirements of the National Curriculum, but also goes well beyond this in many subjects
- Children educated in Montessori schools achieve both academic and social development, facilitated by the teaching and learning approaches applied to their key sensitive periods of imagination, moral awareness and socialisation as part of a team
- Opportunities to develop and apply mathematical and literacy skills, within the context of projects which your child selects and researches, in science, culture (history and geography) and many other areas
- Being part of a small team of children working together and sharing ideas, drawing on their experiences of outings and learning in the community
- Continuous observations of your child's progress with tasks providing new challenges to encourage growth and development of skills and knowledge – without the need for tests
- Confidence is developed by allowing children to learn through understanding, rather than telling, providing the building blocks for future learning and hard wiring their capacity to engage with new materials and information