

The Montessori 6 – 12 years Programme

A Montessori 6-12 years programme is more than simply a continuum of the 3-6 years programme. It is an individualised educational approach, tailored to the changing needs, talents and skills of the child.

The 6 -12 year olds are at a state of development where exploration of the world, and wonder, are intrinsic to learning. The stars, nature, technology and social life induce great questions which are heeded and nurtured allowing the child to really connect with knowledge.

The fundamentals of writing, reading and math, (that were introduced in the 3-6 years programme are continued and become internalised) are the tools the child uses to undertake research, prepare projects and presentations, and go out into their environment with increasing levels of independence.

The children become proficient communicators, take a deep interest in matters they choose, think critically and theorise on issues of the world. They are guided to challenge themselves in all areas and master concepts beyond those normally expected of children this age. Habits of life-long learning become instilled and an entrepreneurial spirit is inspired.

Our school day commences by 9am (children may arrive from 8.30am) and finishes at 3pm.

We do not provide before or after school care outside of these hours.

Entry into the Montessori 6 – 12 years Programme

Our goal is to help every prospective family to make the best decision possible about their child's long-term education. The admissions process is the first step in building a partnership between the family and school. Admission is based on many factors which we consider together all based on whether or not the student, family and school are a good fit.

We follow a rolling admissions process, and applications are considered and as they are received. It is planned that children will commence in the 6 – 9 years class at the beginning of either Term 1 or Term 3, closest to their 6th birthday. Confirmation will be provided on acceptance of admission and as enrolment fees are received.

Placements are dependent on availability. We not only consider the number of children per class, but the class dynamic, i.e. the "normalisation" of the class. Priority is given to those children who have attended the 3-6 year programme. Transfer of a child from another 6 – 12 year old Montessori programme will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. We rarely accept children who have left a Montessori programme and wish to return.

Factors we consider on admissions for 6 year olds;

- Your child should have completed or be currently enrolled in a Montessori 3-6 years programme.
- Your child must be enrolled by 5 years of age so that we can liaise with their current Montessori Guides to ensure they are prepared for the 6-12 year programme.
- It is very important for us to understand your child's ability to co-operate in a group, work independently and overall social maturity.
- We do not have an admissions test or minimum academic criteria. We do however need a sense of your child's present level of reading comprehension, writing ability, mathematics, and cultural literacy.

These factors will help us determine how the needs of your child will be best met. If your child is unknown to us, we will ask to arrange a visit for this purpose. A discussion with parents and child will be required before acceptance.

Specific Learning Support

Children requiring specific learning support are a welcome addition to the Montessori classroom. However we reserve the right to limit this number of children to ensure we are able to cater for the requirements of all the students.

We must be informed at the time of enrolment of any Special Needs or specific learning support your child may require.

The Application Process

1. A pre-enrolment form may be completed at any stage. This form is used when your child is less than 5 years old and you wish to inform us of your intention to enrol.
2. If you have indicated interest in the 6-12 year old programme, we will arrange for the parent(s) / guardians and child to **tour the school** with the Head of School.
3. A completed **Enrolment Agreement** form is then required to proceed. Along with the Enrolment Agreement, parents need to supply a copy of the child's birth certificate and immunisation record. This is a requirement of the Ministry of Education.
4. We require your **permission to contact your child's current Montessori Guide** if they are not attending Waikato Montessori Education Centre 3 - 6 year old programme. If admission is accepted, we will keep in regular contact with this Guide to ensure that preparation continues for the 6 – 12 year old programme.
5. Admission to the class is at the discretion of the Head of School and many factors are considered. A date for commencement in the class will be advised in a letter of acceptance and an invoice for the **Enrolment Fee will be sent**. The enrolment fee is required to be received prior to your child commencing in the class. The Head of School reserves the right to withdraw admission if you have not disclosed pertinent facts such as (but not limited to) behavioural issues and learning difficulties which impact the operation of the class.
6. Near to the commencement date, **class visits** are arranged for your child to transition into the programme. This will usually be arranged to orient children to their peers so will include other children commencing at the same time as your child. A minimum of two visits will be scheduled depending on the needs of the child. During these visits the children will meet the Guides, be invited to explore the classroom and work on activities that are familiar to them. They will be informed of the routines and class timetables.
7. A **school uniform order form** will need to be completed so that this may be issued in preparation for your child's first day.
8. Our aim is for children to be ready and capable of then attending with the least anxiety and separation concerns for their entry into the class.