

ENROLMENT POLICY

Approver: Board

Owner: Principal

Last Reviewed By: Board

Next Review Date: June 2019

The purpose of this policy is to enable the fair and equitable enrolment of students at Melbourne Montessori School ('MMS'). It provides a framework for administration staff to enable the swift processing of interested potential parents/guardians and the correct data collection required by law and by the School.

Our mission at Melbourne Montessori School is to:

- provide excellence in Montessori education
- provide an enriched and welcoming learning community that embodies the Montessori principles of respect for self, respect for all others including the development of intercultural understanding; respect for the environment as well as respect for our country's freedoms and democratic principles
- nurture, inspire and support each child's individual development
- foster the growth of self-confidence, independence, self-discipline, an inquiring, active mind and personal and social responsibility
- foster children's innate love of learning and to make their introduction to education a joyful and purposeful start to a journey of life-long learning.

SCOPE

The Enrolment Policy covers the time from the first interest shown by a potential parent until the child is enrolled, allocated to a class and all initial fees are paid.

Registration

Once a parent decides to register interest in their child attending MMS, a completed Registration Form needs to be submitted, accompanied by the Registration Fee and a copy of the child's Birth Certificate.

Administration staff will then add the name of the child and family contact details to the enrolment register on the database. The acceptance of an application for placement on the enrolment register does not guarantee a place at the school.

Conditions of Entry and Enrolment

After registration:

1. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend an Open Day or School Tour at either campus.
2. An interview between the child, parents/guardians and the Principal is held. The aim of the interview is to answer parents'/guardians' questions, to allow them to understand Montessori or IB pedagogy as appropriate; the enrolment process and to gather initial information about the child to potentially guide class placement on enrolment.
3. Potential Cycle 1 parents/guardians are expected to attend at least one of several available Pre-Enrolment Information Sessions.
4. Cycle 1 Parents/guardians and child attend an Orientation Morning held in early November to meet all Cycle 1 teachers and other Cycle 1 parents/guardians and children.
5. Parents/guardians must disclose any information regarding the child's health, both physical and mental, plus any past experiences or circumstances, medical or other investigations

which might influence the ability of the School to educate them in a standard classroom setting. This is to allow the School to be fully informed about the child and enable the full consideration of the needs of each child.

6. The enrolment of potential IB students who intend to study in Years 11/12 will be open to students who wish to study the Diploma Programme. There are no academic criteria or other selection criteria; students who speak a language other than English will be welcomed (see the Language Policy). Students who are going to study the Diploma Programme will need to discuss their subject choices with the IB Coordinator and Deputy Principal to optimise the opportunities for each student.
7. MMS reserves the right to contact a child's previous school to complete a financial and pastoral care check.
8. Parents are obliged to comply with all the policies of the School as accessed on the School's website.

Trial Period at School

Any child who wishes to start at MMS from Year 1 upwards will undertake a trial period in a classroom of the same age group for a minimum of 3 days.

In senior school, if the 3 day trial is successful then a further month-long trial will take place.

Offer of a Place

After an interview with the Principal or Senior School Deputy Principal if a place is available, a letter of offer will be sent to the parents/guardians or the child placed on the waiting list.

1. The letter will include details of the date of entry, the classroom and campus of the place for the child's start at MMS.
2. A letter of offer means that a place has been provisionally reserved for the child.
3. If a place in the School is offered and is not accepted, a new registration fee will be required to place the child back onto the Enrolment Register.

Prioritisation of Enrolments

MMS manages a prioritised Enrolment Register list and offers places in the following order:

1. Children who have already been enrolled at MMS
2. Siblings of children already attending Melbourne Montessori School,
3. Children of alumni,
4. Children transferring from another Montessori school,
5. Families who have had an offer at an earlier date and chosen to defer,
6. Children with no previous connection to the School.

Placement of Children into Classrooms

A professional judgment is made about the best class allocation for a child in the School. The decision is based upon a range of criteria, namely:

- Montessori philosophy and the experience of the child.
- Gender ratio
- Age and year level ratios
- Social groupings
- Specific learning differences
- Siblings
- Existing enrolment numbers in the rooms
- Other factors as deemed relevant

For the younger children commencing in Cycle One classrooms, Melbourne Montessori School conducts a transition period over the first few weeks of their time at School, gradually extending the number of hours per day, and days per week, spent at school. Please see the Parent Handbook for details.

Acceptance of a place

To accept the offer of a place, a parent will return all the necessary enrolment documents including:

1. completed and signed Student Enrolment Form,
2. completed, signed and initialled Student Enrolment Agreement Form,
3. current Immunisation Record for your child,
4. a colour photograph, and
5. payment of the Acceptance Fee within 14 days, otherwise the offer of a place will lapse.

The Acceptance Fee of \$2,000.00 is a future levy and a one-off payment and is payable from families accepting an offer of a place for Cycle 1 upwards only. The fee is due and payable within fourteen (14) days of the offer being made. This fee is neither refundable nor transferable. Enrolment of a place at the school will not be finalised until the Acceptance Fee is paid.

Withdrawal of a Child by the Family

Two full school terms' notice in writing is required to be given prior to the child's intended withdrawal from the school, otherwise two terms' fees are payable in lieu of the required notice. Written notice should be provided to the Principal.