



**Margaret River
Montessori**

SCHOOL | EST 1993

Enrolment Guide

Application through to Admission





A Lifelong Montessori Journey

Margaret River Montessori School provides a continuous Montessori educational pathway from early childhood through to adolescence. From our Bush Babes Playgroup for children aged 0–3 years, through Primary School and into our Adolescent Program to Year 12, each stage responds to the changing developmental, social and academic needs of the student. The education students receive at MRMS aims to be consistent with the principles and practices of Dr Maria Montessori.

Families are drawn to schools for many different reasons — location, reputation, relationships, opportunity, or simply the feeling that they are seeking something different for their child. At MRMS, we encourage families considering an application to look beyond these considerations and develop an understanding of the Montessori Method itself.

Montessori education is more than a curriculum or a particular style of classroom. It is an educational philosophy grounded in an understanding of development and the needs of the whole child/young person — academic, social, emotional and practical. Montessori environments are carefully prepared to foster independence, responsibility, curiosity, concentration and an intrinsic motivation to learn.

Choosing MRMS therefore means choosing to participate in a Montessori educational journey. Families do not need previous Montessori experience before applying, but we encourage a genuine willingness to learn about the Montessori Method, engage with the School and consider whether its principles align with the values and hopes you hold for your child.

For many families, this journey begins in early childhood and continues through Primary School and into the Adolescent Program. This continuity allows children to grow within a consistent educational philosophy while progressively developing greater independence, responsibility and ownership of their learning. We encourage families to consider not only their child's immediate point of entry, but the broader Montessori pathway available across the School.

There is, however, no single starting point for a Montessori education. Students join MRMS at many different ages and stages — whether beginning through Bush Babes or Junior Primary, relocating to the region, transferring from another school, or seeking a different educational pathway later in their schooling. Applications are welcomed across our age groups and programs, subject to the School's application process and placement availability.

Wherever your family's journey begins, we encourage you to explore the Montessori Method, ask questions and take the time to consider whether Montessori education — and MRMS — is the educational pathway you are seeking for your child.



MRMS Cohorts

Our learning environments are organised around the developmental stages of the child/young person, creating a continuous Montessori pathway from early childhood through to the completion of secondary schooling.



Bush Babes Playgroup | 0–3 Years | Margaret River Campus

Our Montessori-inspired playgroup provides children and their parent or caregiver with an opportunity to experience Montessori principles within a carefully prepared early childhood environment.

Bush Babes operates separately from the School's formal educational program and has its own application process and waitlist. Participation is not a prerequisite for Primary School application or admission and does not guarantee future placement. Families wishing to be considered for both Bush Babes and Primary School must apply separately to each program.

Primary School | 3 Years–Year 6 | Margaret River Campus

Our Primary School provides Montessori education from early entry at approximately 3 years of age through to Year 6, across three developmental groupings:

- Junior Primary — Early Entry (Pre-Kindy) to Pre-Primary
- Middle Primary — Years 1–3
- Upper Primary — Years 4–6

Applications are welcomed across all Primary School age groups, with placement opportunities varying between cohorts and year levels.

Important to know — Junior Primary

Children seeking to commence at MRMS prior to Pre-Primary are required to meet the applicable Western Australian Government immunisation requirements before commencement. Families considering early entry are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these requirements when applying, particularly when considering their preferred commencement timeframe.

Please refer to our Immunisation Guide or contact the Enrolments Officer for further information.



MRMS Cohorts

Adolescent Program | Years 7–12 | Metricup Campus

Our Adolescent Program continues the Montessori journey from Year 7 through to Year 12 within our Metricup Farm Campus.

- Middle School — Years 7–9
- Senior School — Years 10–12

Students continuing from MRMS Primary School progress into the Adolescent Program as the next stage of their Montessori educational journey. External applications are also welcomed across the Adolescent Program, subject to cohort planning and placement availability.

Availability for external applicants can vary between cohorts and is influenced by the continuation of existing MRMS students. For this reason, the number of external placement opportunities available in a particular year may not always be known in advance.

Important to know — Senior School Applicants

Where possible, students are encouraged to commence with MRMS by Year 10, allowing them to engage with our Senior School Program as they prepare for their individual post-school pathway — whether that leads to university, vocational education and training, an apprenticeship, further study, travel or direct entry into the workforce.

Entry during Years 11 and 12 may still be possible in some circumstances; however, the suitability of a later commencement depends on the student's current educational pathway, proposed point of entry and the time available to successfully participate in and complete the MRMS Senior School Program.

Families considering entry into Year 11 or Year 12 should therefore contact the Enrolments Officer before submitting an application. We can discuss your child's individual circumstances and advise whether an application and proposed commencement are appropriate.



The above is a video of our adolescent program campus, if you have a printed copy of this guide I encourage you to refer to your digital copy or our website to check this out.



Your Application Journey

**Explore → Apply → Join the Waitlist → Stay Engaged → Placement Consideration
→ Offer → Admission → Commencement**

Every family's journey to Margaret River Montessori School may look a little different. You do not need to complete every activity before applying, and the application process does not follow one fixed sequence.

You may apply before attending a School Tour, engagement opportunities can occur at different stages, and not every family will participate in every activity. Throughout the journey, the Enrolments Officer is available to help you understand what is relevant to your family and what your next steps may be.

If you know you would like your child to be considered for MRMS, we encourage you to apply early. You can continue exploring the School and developing your understanding of Montessori while your child is on the waitlist.



Your Application Journey

Explore MRMS

Families come to MRMS with many different levels of familiarity with Montessori education. There is no expectation that you already have an extensive understanding of the Montessori Method before enquiring or applying.

School Tours, information sessions, our website and resources, classroom observations and conversations with the Enrolments Officer provide opportunities to learn more about Montessori education, our environments and the educational pathway available to your child. Families applying for Year 6 and below are asked to tour both the Margaret River Primary Campus and Metricup Adolescent Program Campus during their application journey, providing an understanding of the broader MRMS pathway through to Year 12. Families applying for Year 7 onwards are asked to tour the Adolescent Program Campus.

You do not need to complete a School Tour before applying, although it is encouraged as a starting base. If you already know you would like your child to be considered for MRMS, there is no need to delay your application while waiting for a tour, information session or other engagement opportunity. The most important thing is that you have an understanding of the application process and that you feel sure that you want a Montessori education for your child.

Apply When You're Ready — Even if Commencement Is Years Away

Applications are welcomed throughout the year and can be submitted well in advance of your preferred commencement. Applying early allows your child to become part of our active applicant pool and gives your family time to continue exploring and engaging with MRMS while we develop a current understanding of your child and your future intentions.

Applications are completed according to your child's current age or stage at the time of application, rather than the year level they may eventually enter. A separate application is required for each child/young person. To submit an application, families provide:

- a completed Application for Enrolment;
- the supporting documentation requested within the application; and
- payment of the applicable non-refundable Application Fee.

Once the required information, documentation and fee have been received, the application can be reviewed, accepted and processed.

Your Requested Commencement

When applying, you will be asked when you would ideally like your child to commence. This helps us understand your family's intentions and supports future cohort and placement planning.

Your requested commencement is the earliest point from which your child would generally be considered for placement, unless you later advise us that an earlier commencement would suit your family.

It is a preference rather than a reservation or guarantee. If a place is not available at your initially requested commencement, your application does not necessarily come to an end — your child can remain on the waitlist for suitable future opportunities.



Your Application Journey

Your Application Grows With Your Child

We recognise that a lot can change when you apply months or even years ahead. For this reason, your child's application is not fixed to the information provided on the day you apply.

You can update your application as your child grows or your circumstances change. This may include your requested commencement, current school or educational circumstances, family and contact information, development, learning or support needs, or other information relevant to your child's application.

You do not need to submit a new application simply because something changes. Updates can be provided to the Enrolments Officer and incorporated into your child's existing application profile.

Joining the Waitlist

Once your completed application has been accepted and processed, we will confirm in writing that your child has joined the relevant waitlist. From this point, your child has an active application and can be considered for suitable future placement opportunities.

Our waitlist is best understood as a pool of active applications rather than a numbered or strictly chronological queue. When a potential placement is identified, relevant active applications are considered in the context of that opportunity and the School's Enrolment Criteria.

Application date and time spent on the waitlist form part of your child's application history, but neither determines placement on its own. For this reason, we cannot provide a numbered waitlist position or guarantee when a placement opportunity may become available.

While You're on the Waitlist

Your application journey continues while your child remains on the waitlist. This is an opportunity for your family to continue getting to know MRMS and for the School to maintain a current and meaningful understanding of your child, family and future intentions.

What this looks like will vary between families and may include:

- **School Tours & Information Sessions** - Explore our environments and deepen your understanding of Montessori education and the broader MRMS pathway.
- **Primary Classroom Observations** - Parents/guardians applying to Primary School are asked to participate in a quiet, "fly-on-the-wall" observation of a Montessori classroom during their application journey.
- **Preliminary Meetings** - Some families may be invited to meet with the Principal or relevant staff to discuss their child, family circumstances, Montessori philosophy and information relevant to their application.
- **Application Updates, Surveys & Audits** - From time to time, we may ask you to confirm your continued interest, future intentions, circumstances or supporting information so that your child's application remains current.

Not every family will participate in every form of engagement, and these opportunities do not necessarily occur in a particular order.

Staying engaged is a two-way process. We will contact you when information or participation is required, or when a particular opportunity is relevant to your application. You are also welcome to contact the Enrolments Officer at any stage to provide an update, ask questions or find out what opportunities may be appropriate for your family.



Your Application Journey

Withdrawing or Closing an Application

Families may withdraw their child's application at any time by contacting the Enrolments Officer.

The School may also close or withdraw an application where the requirements for maintaining an active application have not been met. This may include where requested information or confirmation of continued interest is not provided within the timeframe advised, or where the School is unable to establish contact with the family.

Once an application has been withdrawn or closed, whether by the family or the School, it will no longer remain on the waitlist or be considered for future placement opportunities.

Application Fees and other fees already paid in connection with a withdrawn or closed application are non-refundable and non-transferable.

If your family later wishes for your child to be considered again, you are welcome to reapply. A new Application for Enrolment, current supporting documentation and payment of the applicable Application Fee will be required.

Understanding What Each Stage Means

Before your application has been accepted and we have confirmed that your child has joined the waitlist, your child is not under consideration for placement.

Once on the waitlist, your child may be considered for suitable future placement opportunities. However, participation in a School Tour, observation, Preliminary Meeting, information session, application review or other engagement activity does not indicate that a placement is available or that an Offer of Place will be made.

A placement is only offered through a formal Offer of Place issued by the School. That offer relates specifically to the placement and commencement arrangements outlined within it. The offered placement is secured once the acceptance requirements are completed within the timeframe provided, including formal acceptance, payment of the applicable Placement Fee and any other requirements specified within the offer. Families must then complete the required admission and commencement requirements within the timeframes advised.



Placement Planning & Enrolment Criteria



How Do We Know When a Place Is Available?

Placement planning is an ongoing process undertaken throughout the year as the School considers the capacity, composition and future needs of each cohort.

Before applications can be considered for placement, we must first determine whether there is an appropriate placement opportunity within the relevant cohort. This involves more than identifying an apparent vacancy or counting the number of students in a classroom.

Our planning may consider the progression and continuation intentions of existing students, anticipated departures, students moving between developmental stages or programs, classroom and cohort capacity, age and year-level composition, confirmed incoming students and the overall educational and developmental needs of the learning environment.

This means an apparent space within a classroom does not necessarily represent an available placement. Equally, future placement opportunities cannot always be confirmed well in advance, as different cohorts become clearer at different times and circumstances continue to change throughout the year.

In some circumstances, the School may also determine that it is appropriate to leave a place unfilled where doing so supports the educational, developmental or operational needs of the cohort.

Once a suitable placement opportunity is identified, relevant active applications can be considered in accordance with the School's Enrolment Criteria.



Placement Planning & Enrolment Criteria

Thinking About Term 1? Apply Early.

Applications are welcomed throughout the year and there is no single application closing date. However, families hoping for a Term 1 commencement are strongly encouraged to apply by Term 3 of the preceding year.

Term 1 is our largest annual intake and transition period, and significant forward planning takes place during the preceding year as existing students progress between year levels, developmental stages and programs and new students are considered for available opportunities.

Applying by Term 3 allows your child to be part of the active applicant pool while our main Term 1 cohort and placement planning is underway. This is not an application deadline. Applications received later are still welcomed and can join the waitlist; however, planning for the requested cohort may already be well progressed or finalised. Your child can continue to be considered should circumstances change or a suitable future placement opportunity arise.



Planning Further Ahead?

We encourage families to apply as soon as they know they would like a Montessori education at MRMS for their child, regardless of how far into the future their intended commencement may be. Joining the waitlist early gives the School greater visibility of your family's future intentions and allows your child to be included in longer-term cohort and placement planning.

It also gives your family time to engage with the School and keep your child's application information current as they grow and their educational journey develops. Applying well in advance does not guarantee a future placement, nor does the length of time an application has been held determine placement.

Rather, it allows your child to be part of our applicant pool as future cohorts and placement opportunities are considered, and keeps your family in the loop of any updates and opportunities.



How Are Applications Considered? – A look into Enrolment Criteria

When a potential placement opportunity is identified, the School considers relevant active applications in the context of that particular opportunity.

Placement decisions are made at the discretion of the Principal and consider the whole application profile. There is no single formula or ranking system. The information available about the student and family is considered alongside the particular placement opportunity, the composition and needs of the existing cohort, and any other circumstances relevant to determining an appropriate placement.

The considerations below provide an overview of the areas that may inform placement planning; they are not intended to limit the information or circumstances the Principal may consider.

The Available Placement & Cohort: The student's age, year level and developmental stage in relation to the available opportunity; the composition, balance and needs of the existing classroom or cohort; and the educational, developmental and operational circumstances relevant to that learning environment.

Your Child: The student's educational circumstances, development, learning and support needs, previous educational experiences and any other information relevant to understanding the student and their potential placement within the available environment.

Existing Siblings at MRMS: Whether the student has a sibling currently attending MRMS may be considered as part of placement planning and the School's broader commitment to supporting families within our community.

Your Family & the Montessori Journey: The family's understanding of and alignment with the Montessori Method; engagement with the School throughout the application journey; and intentions regarding their child's continuation through the broader MRMS educational pathway.

Your Application Profile: The requested commencement; the history and currency of the application; information and documentation available within the application profile; updates provided throughout the application journey; and the length of time the application has been active. Application date and time spent on the waitlist form part of the overall application history available to the School, but do not independently determine placement. The waitlist therefore does not operate on a "first applied, first offered" basis.

Montessori Experience & Connection: Previous Montessori experience, including students transferring from another Montessori environment, and where relevant, a student's participation and engagement in Bush Babes and observations available from their time within the program. Participation in Bush Babes or previous Montessori experience is not a prerequisite for admission and does not guarantee placement.

The Whole Picture!

Every placement opportunity is different. The Principal may consider any other information or circumstances relevant to determining whether a placement is appropriate for the child, the existing cohort and the School. For this reason, no single criterion guarantees placement and no individual factor automatically takes precedence over another. The relevance and weighting of different considerations may vary according to the circumstances of each placement opportunity.

Placement Advice

As cohort planning progresses and potential placement opportunities are identified, the School reviews relevant active applications in accordance with our Enrolment Criteria. There is no single timeframe in which placement advice is issued. Some opportunities may become clear well in advance, while others may not be known until closer to the requested commencement. Where possible, we aim to provide families with advice as early as circumstances reasonably allow. Following placement planning and application consideration, families may be advised that:

An Offer of Place can be made

The School has identified an appropriate placement opportunity and is in a position to formally offer your child a place.



Your child will remain on the waitlist

A suitable placement is not currently available. Your child's application can remain active for future consideration should circumstances change or another suitable opportunity arise.



The application will not progress further

In some circumstances, the School may determine that it is unable to offer a current or future placement and the application will be closed. Where this applies, the family will be advised directly.



Placement Advice

Accepting Your Place

If we are delighted to be able to offer your child a place at MRMS, you will receive a formal Offer of Place outlining the placement available, proposed commencement and any relevant attendance or placement arrangements.

Each offer relates to the specific placement outlined within the Offer of Place. To secure that placement, families must complete the acceptance requirements within the timeframe provided, including:

- formal acceptance of the Offer of Place;
- payment of the applicable Placement Fee; and
- any other acceptance requirements identified within the offer.

Once these requirements have been completed, your child's placement is secured and we can begin preparing to welcome your family to MRMS.

If You Are Not Ready to Accept the Placement Offered

Offers are time-sensitive because the School must continue planning for the relevant cohort and other active applications. If an offer is not accepted within the timeframe provided, it may lapse and the placement may become available for further planning or consideration.

If the placement offered no longer suits your family's circumstances, but you would like your child to remain under consideration for a different or later commencement, please contact the Enrolments Officer before the offer expires.

We can discuss your circumstances and whether your child's application can remain active for future consideration. Declining or requesting a change to an offered placement does not automatically transfer or reserve that place for another commencement, and a future placement opportunity cannot be guaranteed.



Getting Ready to Join MRMS

Welcome Pack → Admission Documentation → Transition & Connection → First Day

Once you have accepted your child's Offer of Place and completed the acceptance requirements, the application and placement stage of your journey is complete — and we can begin preparing to welcome your child and family to Margaret River Montessori School.

Your Welcome Pack & Admission Documentation

Following acceptance, families will receive a Welcome Pack containing the information and documentation required to prepare for commencement.

Depending on your child's age and circumstances, this may include student and family information, health and medical information, emergency contacts, permissions and authorities, immunisation information, agreements and other documentation required by the School.

Admission documentation and any other commencement requirements must be completed within the timeframes advised. This allows us to ensure everything required to safely and appropriately welcome your child is in place before their first day.

Preparing for Your Child's First Day

As commencement approaches, we will guide your family through the transition opportunities and practical information relevant to your child's age, program and time of entry.

This may include:

- a New Family Induction for parents/guardians;
- a Meet & Greet with your child's classroom or relevant staff;
- transition or orientation opportunities where applicable;
- information about your child's classroom, teachers and Kin Group; and
- practical information about commencement and their first day.

Transition arrangements are tailored to the relevant program and time of year, so not every family or student will participate in exactly the same combination of activities.

Welcome to MRMS

Prior to commencement, we will confirm your child's first-day arrangements and any program-specific information your family needs.

Your child becomes an enrolled student of Margaret River Montessori School following acceptance of their placement and completion of the School's required admission process.

From here, the focus shifts from applying to MRMS to belonging, connecting and beginning your child's Montessori journey with us.



Frequently Asked Questions

Does Montessori require book lists or additional classroom materials?

No. Margaret River Montessori School does not issue book lists. All classroom materials are provided within the prepared environment. Families are not required to purchase textbooks, stationery or workbooks. These resources are included within school fees. Please refer to the current Fee Schedule for further information.



As a parent, what is expected of me?

Families considering Margaret River Montessori School are encouraged to understand that Montessori education works best as a partnership between school and home. Parents are invited to maintain an ongoing involvement in the life of the school community. This may include participation in community events such as busy bees, fundraising activities, parent education evenings, classroom observations, and involvement in school committees or parent groups.

Parent involvement helps strengthen our community and supports the sustainability of the School. We also encourage families to extend an understanding of Montessori principles into the home environment wherever possible, helping to create a consistent and supportive experience for the student.

Do students wear a school uniform?

We have a school uniform available; however, daily wear is not compulsory. Families are not required to purchase or maintain a full wardrobe of uniform items. Students are required to have at least one approved uniform item for excursions and other events. Students in the Adolescent Program are not required to wear a uniform. Instead, they are encouraged to adhere to the program's dress guidelines, which support students in selecting clothing appropriate for the wide range of activities undertaken within the program.

What role does technology play in the school?

Technology is integrated thoughtfully into the curriculum as students grow and develop. Students are introduced to digital tools and technology skills in age-appropriate ways, supporting research, communication and creative work. The aim is to ensure students are confident and capable in using modern technology while maintaining balance with hands-on learning experiences.

What opportunities are available for language, art, music and sport?

Margaret River Montessori School offers a rich and balanced learning experience. Students participate in specialist programs including Language Other Than English, art music and physical education.

The School provides a strong language program, including French, delivered by specialist educators once students commence full-time schooling. Music and art education are also provided by specialist teachers. While Montessori education places less emphasis on competitive sport, students are encouraged to develop strong movement skills, teamwork and physical confidence through games, physical education and outdoor activities.



FAQ

Will siblings, twins or other similar family members be placed in the same classroom?

No. In accordance with our classroom composition guidelines, siblings, twins and other close family members are generally placed in separate classrooms where they are within the same developmental grouping. This approach supports each student to develop their own independence, identity, relationships and sense of belonging within their classroom community, while allowing them to experience their Montessori journey as an individual. Being in separate classrooms does not mean students are separated from their family connections within the broader School community. Family members are connected through the same Kin Group and have many opportunities to come together outside their classroom environments through Kin activities, whole-school events, shared experiences and the wider life of the School. In this way, students are supported to build their own classroom community while continuing to share a strong sense of connection and belonging with their family across MRMS.

What if my child learns, develops or needs support differently?

Montessori education is designed to meet students where they are and extend them towards where they have the potential to be. Our mixed-age environments allow students to work at their developmental and learning level, whether they require additional time and support or opportunities to extend beyond age-based expectations.

This may include students with additional or intensive support needs, those working ahead of their expected year level, or families considering whether a different year-level placement may be appropriate.

Every student is individual, so we encourage families to contact the Enrolments Officer early in their enquiry journey. This allows us to learn about your child, understand their needs and circumstances, and tailor the enquiry and application journey accordingly. Where additional support or alternative placement considerations are relevant, further conversations or information may form part of this process.

Ultimately, families are encouraged to explore Montessori and consider whether its approach feels right for their child and family, while the School works with you to understand how your child may be supported within the MRMS environment.

Does MRMS teach a different curriculum from other WA schools?

MRMS meets the curriculum requirements applicable to Western Australian schools while delivering learning through the Montessori Method and National Montessori Curriculum. The key difference is how learning is delivered, with Montessori environments supporting independence, curiosity and deeper exploration of concepts.

In Senior School (Years 10–12), MRMS uses the Big Picture Education Australia framework rather than offering a traditional WACE pathway, supporting students towards a range of post-school pathways.

MRMS also participates in NAPLAN for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, with parents/guardians able to withdraw their child in accordance with the applicable process.

Will my child have the same future study and career opportunities as students from mainstream schools?

Yes. Students graduating from Margaret River Montessori School have a range of pathways available to them after completing their schooling.

Our Adolescent Program includes pathways such as the Big Picture Program and university preparation course options that allow students to build portfolios demonstrating their learning and achievements. These pathways can provide an ATAR-equivalent entry into university without the traditional final examination model.

We also recognise that university is not the only pathway. Many students pursue vocational education, apprenticeships, further training or direct entry into the workforce. Through practical learning experiences and partnerships with Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), students are supported in preparing for a wide variety of future opportunities.



Further Resources

We encourage families to take the time to explore the resources available to develop a deeper understanding of Margaret River Montessori School and the Montessori Method. This may include exploring our website, attending School Tours and information sessions, requesting curriculum or program information, and reviewing resources about our philosophy, programs and community expectations.

The Enrolments Officer is available throughout your application journey to help you find relevant information, answer questions and provide clarification where needed.

By submitting an application, families are expected to have taken reasonable steps to familiarise themselves with the School, the Montessori Method and the information relevant to their application, including the current Fee Schedule. We encourage families to ask questions wherever further information or clarification would assist in making an informed decision about their Montessori journey with MRMS.



We're here to help

Please Ask

If you have any questions about Montessori or the application and enrolment process, we warmly invite you to contact the Enrolments Officer, who supports prospective and incoming families across both our Margaret River and Metricup campuses. The Enrolments Officer is primarily based at our Margaret River Campus, where you are welcome to visit, or you can call, email or arrange a time to meet.



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