



**Margaret River
Montessori**
SCHOOL | EST 1993

Enrolment Guide

Application through to Admission





A Lifelong Montessori Journey

Margaret River Montessori School (MRMS) is registered to provide education for children from the age of 3 years through to Year 12; alongside a 0-3 year playgroup program. The education children receive at MRMS aims to be consistent with the principles and practices of Dr Maria Montessori.

At MRMS, we believe that Montessori education from birth through adolescence offers children the strongest foundation for lifelong learning, independence and wellbeing.

Across two beautiful campuses, our community supports children from Bush Babes Playgroup (0-3 years) through Primary School and into our Adolescent Program. We encourage families who are drawn to Montessori education to consider joining our community for the long term, allowing children to grow within one continuous and carefully prepared learning journey.

That said, we welcome applications across all age groups throughout the year from families seeking to change their child's educational pathway or those relocating to the Margaret River region.





Why Choose Montessori?

Families are drawn to schools for many different reasons — location, reputation, relationships or opportunity. At Margaret River Montessori School, the foundation of your decision should be a genuine desire for the Montessori Method.

Montessori education is more than a curriculum. It is a philosophy of child development that recognises the whole child — academic, social, emotional and practical. It honours independence, responsibility, intrinsic motivation and deep concentration. It is education in harmony with life.

You do not need to come with a background in Montessori education. Many families begin their journey with us knowing only that they are seeking something different — something more aligned with their values for their child.

What matters most is a willingness to learn, to engage, and to walk alongside your child within the Montessori approach. Our community is built on mutual respect, shared values and partnership between school and home.

Choosing Montessori is choosing a long-term educational philosophy. We encourage families to consider not only the next year, but the full journey — from early childhood through adolescence — and whether this approach aligns with your hopes for your child's development.



MRMS Cohorts



Bush Babes Playgroup (0-3 Years) - Margaret River Campus

We encourage your child to begin their Montessori journey from birth with our Bush Babes Playgroup (0-3 years).

Once your child turns 3, they are eligible to begin in Junior Primary in our Primary School. Once enrolled in Primary School, your child can continue their education with us, through to Year 6 on at our Margaret River Campus and then through to Year 12 at our Metricup Campus.

Primary School - Margaret River Campus

Junior Primary - Early Entry to Pre-Primary

Middle Primary - Year 1 to Year 3

Upper Primary - Year 4 to Year 6

Once your child turns three, they are eligible to begin in Junior Primary at our Margaret River Campus.

Children enrolled in the Primary School may continue their Montessori education through to Year 6 as part of a carefully prepared and continuous learning journey. Our Primary School maintains an active waitlist across multiple year levels and entry points. Placement availability depends on cohort balance, classroom dynamics and overall enrolment considerations.

We encourage families seeking long-term Montessori education to apply early, particularly for Junior Primary entry, which remains one of our most in-demand entry points.

Adolescent Program - Metricup Campus

Middle School - Year 7 to Year 9

Senior School - Year 10 to Year 12

The Adolescent Program is conducted at our Metricup Farm Campus and offers a unique integration of academic study, practical enterprise and community engagement. Guided by trained educators, students take increasing responsibility for managing the prepared environment, cultivating the land, operating enterprise, participating within the local community and caring for plants and animals. These experiences are thoughtfully integrated with academic studies, forming an intensive and purposeful community of learners.

As students progress through the program, a range of learning pathways are available to support their interests, strengths and future aspirations. These include, Big Picture learning, TAFE partnerships, and University preparation programs (UniPrep).

Students enrolled in our Primary School move automatically into the Adolescent Program as a seamless continuation of their Montessori journey.





Enrolment Criteria

How Placement Decisions Are Made

Placement offers are made at the discretion of the Principal following careful and considered review of each application.

Our aim is to enrol students who will benefit from a Montessori education at our School and whose enrolment will, in turn, contribute positively to the strength and continuity of our learning community.

When assessing applications, the School considers a range of factors including whether the child has siblings currently enrolled, is transferring from another Montessori school, or has previous Montessori experience through early learning environments or family connections. Attendance at Bush Babes Playgroup, or application to the Bush Babes waitlist, is viewed positively within the Primary School application process; however, it is not mandatory and does not guarantee placement.

We also consider a family's demonstrated alignment with Montessori philosophy and values, their willingness to engage positively within the School community, and their intention to continue through both the Primary School and Adolescent Program. The educational and developmental needs of each child, and the School's capacity to support those needs, are thoughtfully reviewed.

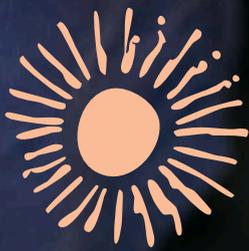
When determining cohort placement availability, we assess the overall balance within each class, including age ranges, gender balance and the mix of developmental and learning needs across the cohort. While the date of application is noted, it is not the determining factor in placement decisions.

Junior Primary entry at three years of age is often the most accessible point of entry, and delaying beyond this time may significantly impact availability. All children and families are different, and we are always happy to discuss the most appropriate point of entry for your child.

Please note that should you choose to delay commencement after an offer of place has been made, placement availability at a later entry point cannot be guaranteed. Families seeking to re-enrol their child after previously withdrawing from the School may not be prioritised ahead of other applicants when places become available.

At times, the School may also choose to leave places open to ensure availability for future priority applicants or at the discretion of the Principal.





The Process

The order in which this process is completed can vary — some families choose to complete these steps at different stages depending on their familiarity with Montessori education or our school, as well as their own individual circumstances.

School Tours
Application
Waitlist
Observation (Primary School Only)
Preliminary Meetings
Placement Offer
Admission





School Tour

As part of the application journey, parents and guardians are asked to attend a tour of both our Primary School Campus and our Adolescent Campus. This provides a complete picture of the Montessori pathway from early childhood through adolescence.

If your child is already of secondary age, only an Adolescent Campus tour is required. Tour bookings and waitlists are managed via our website.

Application

To secure a place on our waitlist, families must submit the appropriate Application Form (Completed in Full) along with all supporting documentation and payment of the Application Fee.

Once received and processed, written confirmation will be provided that your child has been placed on the waitlist for consideration.

Confirmation of receipt is not an indication of placement availability.

This is not an indication that the application has been successful OR confirmation of your child's placement.

Waitlist

All applicants are added to the waitlist for their requested year and term of entry. Our waitlist is not linear. It should be understood as a waiting zone rather than a numbered queue. Placement reviews occur in accordance with our Enrolment Criteria and placement review process, taking into account cohort requirements at the time of assessment.

While your requested commencement date is noted, offers are not made sequentially based on application date alone.

Due to the complexity of enrolment considerations and the dynamic nature of our cohorts, we are unable to provide information regarding waitlist position, overall waitlist length or likely timeframes. Movement on the waitlist does not occur in order.

The School conducts regular enrolment audits based on cohort needs. During these reviews, families may be contacted to confirm or update application details to ensure their application remains active. If we are unable to make contact, applications may be placed on hold or withdrawn.

Placement decisions may be finalised as late as the term prior to the requested commencement. While we aim to communicate as early as possible, future availability cannot be predicted in advance.

Families are always welcome to contact the Enrolments Officer to update their details or check in regarding their application.



Parent Observations (Primary School only)

Classroom observations form a meaningful part of the Primary School application journey, offering families the opportunity to quietly experience Montessori learning as it unfolds. During a “fly-on-the-wall” visit, parents or guardians spend time in their child’s potentially relevant classroom, observing the natural rhythm of the work cycle, the independence of the students, and the calm order of the prepared environment in action. Children do not attend these sessions, allowing adults the space to observe deeply and reflect.

Observation places are intentionally limited to preserve the integrity of the classroom and minimise disruption to the students’ work. Bookings are coordinated by the Enrolments Officer, and when sessions reach capacity, a waitlist operates. Families with a completed and active application are prioritised for availability.



Preliminary Meetings (by invitation)

Some families may be invited to attend a Preliminary Meeting as part of the application journey. An invitation to a Preliminary Meeting does not indicate placement availability and is not a guarantee of an Offer of a Place. These meetings provide an opportunity for the School to gain a deeper understanding of your child and family, to discuss Montessori philosophy and community expectations, and to ensure up-to-date information is available during placement reviews. Meetings occur at various points throughout the year so that when it is time to review placement availability, we have current and relevant information at hand. For this reason, families should not expect notice of a placement outcome immediately following a meeting, as review periods may not yet be underway.

Meetings are tailored to your child's age and stage of development, and when an invitation is extended, further information will be provided outlining what the meeting will involve so that you feel prepared for the day. Not all families will be invited to a meeting, and in some circumstances families may be invited more than once.

Placement Offer & Notice of No Placement Availability

Placement offers are made at the discretion of the Principal following careful and considered review of each application. When a place is available, families will be contacted and advised accordingly, followed by a formal written Letter of Offer and Welcome Pack. The Welcome Pack will include admission documentation, relevant information, an invoice for the Placement Fee, and details regarding Meet & Greet sessions, transition opportunities and orientation arrangements. These steps are thoughtfully designed to ensure that both your child and your family are warmly welcomed into our community and supported in a confident and settled commencement. To secure the place, all documentation and the Placement Fee must be returned within the specified timeframe.

If a place is not available for your child at the requested entry point, you will be contacted and advised accordingly. At that time, you will be offered the opportunity to remain on the waitlist, confirm your details and, where appropriate, participate in an application audit. It is common for audits to occur at the point of notice of no placement availability due to cohort capacities and future planning considerations. This does not indicate that your child has not been previously considered; rather, it ensures that we are reviewing and updating information while in active communication with your family.

While we endeavor to advise families as early as possible regarding placement outcomes, the dynamic nature of our enrolment and cohort review process means that notice of placement availability or non-availability may be provided as late as the term prior to the requested commencement.





FAQ's

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 child.

Is Margaret River Montessori School associated with a religion?

No. The Montessori Method is not affiliated with any religion. We welcome applicants from all religious backgrounds, or none at all. Religious affiliation is not a determining factor in placement decisions.

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.

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.



FAQ's

My child has additional or intensive support requirements. How can MRMS support this?

We understand that every child is unique. Additional steps have been introduced into our application and admission process to ensure families of children with additional support needs receive clear and accurate information about what support may be available. This process is tailored to each child. Families are encouraged to reach out to the Enrolments Officer early in the enquiry/application journey so that appropriate discussions and planning can occur.

I feel my child should be accelerated, repeat a year, or commence in a year group different to their WA Academic Year level. Do you accommodate this?

Our mixed-age classroom structure allows flexibility within the environment. Children who require additional time are supported at their developmental level, while those working ahead are able to extend into more advanced material naturally within the classroom.

We are open to discussions regarding variation to a child's year group placement where appropriate. These conversations are best had early in the application process and should be noted on your application or discussed directly with the Enrolments Officer during your enquiry.

What technology skills are taught at the School?

Technology is integrated thoughtfully into the curriculum as children 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's

How is discipline handled in the classroom?

Montessori classrooms are carefully prepared environments that balance freedom with responsibility. Children are guided to make respectful choices and develop strong social awareness from the time they begin their Montessori journey.

Educators focus on proactive approaches that nurture respect, independence and problem-solving skills. If challenges arise, staff work with the child to understand the situation and support them in developing constructive ways to respond. In some cases, a child may take time in a quiet or reflective space before returning to the classroom community.

Margaret River Montessori School also follows established wellbeing and student support frameworks to help ensure a safe and respectful learning environment for all students. The School's Behaviour Support Policy and Code of Conduct are available upon request.

Do you teach a different curriculum at MRMS?

Like all WA schools, Margaret River Montessori School is guided by the WA Curriculum Framework and consequently covers all eight Key Learning Areas. Additionally, Montessori Schools have their own syllabus which, in many areas, is more rigorous than traditional schools. The difference lies in how the curriculum is delivered. The Montessori method integrates the Australian Curriculum within the prepared environment, encouraging independence, curiosity and a strong understanding of core academic concepts. This allows children to explore concepts deeply and at their own pace. Big Picture Education Australia is the education framework provided in Senior Secondary (Yrs 10,11 & 12) instead of the WACE.

How does MRMS align with the Australian Curriculum and national testing?

Australian Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA) has approved the National Montessori Curriculum, as has the WA School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA).

As in all schools in Australia, MRMS is required by law to undertake compulsory National Testing of students in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9. However, parents are able to withdraw their child from NAPLAN.

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 many resources available to develop a deeper understanding of our School and the Montessori Method. This may include reviewing information on our website, attending school tours, requesting curriculum or program information, and engaging with the resources we provide about our philosophy, programs and community expectations.

If you require clarification or would like additional information, the Enrolments Officer is available to assist.

Applications are submitted with the understanding that families have taken the time to familiarise themselves with the School's resources and information, including the current Fee Schedule.



We're here to help

Please Ask

If you have any questions about Montessori or the enrolment process, we warmly invite you to contact the Enrolments Officer. You are welcome to call, email, visit the Margaret River Campus or arrange a time to meet.



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