

Chalcot Montessori School is a small bilingual nursery/pre-preparatory class, with a maximum of 28, as a mixed aged group of children from 2½ to 6 years.

The aim of the School is to foster the developing life of the child, to encourage self-confidence, independence and organisation. The many activities take account of and help the child's social development. Children learn to respect each other's work and to realise that even the youngest child has his or her role to play in the daily life of the School.

Children are encouraged to observe, reason and decide; as the development of learning skills is treated as equally important as the acquisition of knowledge.

The Montessori equipment is set out in an orderly way, enabling each child to locate desired activities easily, helping him/her to gain a sense of security.

Children are free to act on their own initiative and with the sensitive direction of the teachers, are able to develop their individual abilities to the maximum.

TYPICAL ACTIVITIES

Children may be:

- in a large group: for news period, singing, stories or musical movement and outings
- in a small group: for language games, social games, science experiments, cooking, craft, or gardening
- organising their own group work or helping another child
- working individually with needlework, painting, writing or using mathematical equipment
- working on a one-to-one basis with a teacher
- sitting quietly contemplating or reading a book

Children of all denominations are welcome. However, each Christmas there is a Nativity Play in which the whole School takes part.

The School is closely linked with A.M.I., the Association Montessori Internationale. This body promotes a high standard of equipment and staffing worldwide for the Montessori philosophy of education for life. Montessori Education (UK) Ltd has awarded Chalcot Montessori with accreditation status.

The School is OFSTED inspected and implements a Child Protection Policy for the safety and well-being of the children in its care.

ACCESS VIA PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The nearest Underground train station is Belsize Park (Northern Line) and Swiss Cottage (Jubilee Line). The 168 and C11 buses stop immediately outside the School, and the 31 bus stops nearby.

THE STAFF

The School is run by a good team of people, both English and French, who work together with complementary skills and qualifications and who help to create a caring atmosphere.

The Principal, Joanna Morfey is a fully qualified A.M.I. Montessori Directress. She taught for several years in Paris and later ran a Montessori School near Hampton Court (Richmond-upon-Thames) before establishing Chalcot Montessori School in 1988.

EQUIPMENT

The School is in a house with a large garden off a private road.

The "prepared environment" is an important aspect of the Montessori approach to education and enables the child to learn easily and with pleasure. The School gives emphasis to this aspect with the quality, maintenance and layout of the scientifically designed Montessori equipment.

There are areas for:

Practical Life

The child's movements are co-ordinated by doing purposeful activities of daily life which help the child acquire basic skills and independence. For example, washing the dishes, polishing shoes or tying bows. The child learns to do the job properly and achieves fulfilment by successfully completing the task.

Sensorial Material (cognitive education)

These train and refine sensory perception and give a strong base of reality needed for the child to understand the abstract. The child's brain is fed, not only visually but also through touch, sound, taste and smell, thereby developing the intellect. For example, the child delights in feeling the geometric shapes, this tactile experience reinforces the visual impression.

Mathematics

A sensorial introduction to the world of numbers. The child is led from a tangible "concrete" experience to abstract concepts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and fractions. The child achieves a natural appreciation of basic concepts and avoids the mental blockages which so often occur if first faced with just the abstract.

Language

An enriching environment is offered to the child to gain a variety of real experiences as a firm foundation for language development. Reading and writing are approached, not only by the preparation of the necessary physical and mechanical skills, but also through a wide range of activities and games which help the child to interpret and appreciate his language. Movement along this path is at each child's own pace.

Culture

The equipment for Geography, Botany, Zoology, Music, Art and Science stimulates the child's interest and inbuilt receptiveness to the natural world and cultural life.

Our garden and nature pond provide a rich source of practical activities.

An Environment in Two Languages

Young children learn language with such ease that the acquisition of a second language at this time can only be an advantage. In the class both English and French are spoken at all times. For the first year, a good oral base is provided in both languages through stories, songs, language-games and everyday vocabulary. Parents then choose between the French or English script when learning to write the alphabet.

Physical Development

Weather permitting, the garden is used as much as possible and a weekly walk to Primrose Hill park includes physical activity, nature study and an understanding of road sense.

SCHOOL SESSIONS

The academic year starts in September and ends in July. There are three terms, each of 11-12 weeks which includes a half-term holiday of one week. Children attend a five day week, Monday to Friday.

Reception	11.30 am – 1 pm
Morning	9 am – 12 noon
Extended morning	9 am – 1 pm

FEES 2011-2012

Registration	£50.00	(non- refundable)
Reception	£1,050	per term
Morning	£2,100	per term
Extended Morning	£2,200	per term

Fees are payable termly in advance. One term's notice in writing is required on withdrawal of a child from school.

REGISTRATION AND ADMISSIONS

Children can be registered from birth onwards and enter the school between 2½ and 3 years depending on their stage of development. It is not usually possible to accept children beyond 3 years unless there has been previous Montessori experience.

One or two terms prior to entry children visit the school so that their readiness to start school can be discussed. Once a place has been accepted, a deposit of a term's fees will be required which will be reimbursed in the child's final term once all outstanding fees have been paid. Children need to be potty trained before starting school. Places are offered in order of the waiting list.

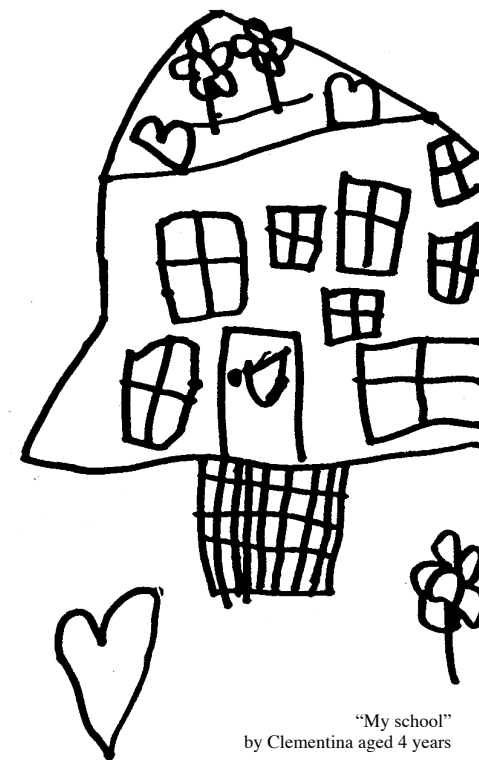
Please send completed Registration form and fee to:

J. Morfey

**CHALCOT MONTESSORI SCHOOL A.M.I.
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"My school"
by Clementina aged 4 years

CHALCOT
bilingual
MONTESSORI
SCHOOL