



Report summary for parents and carers on Cardiff Montessori School

Date of inspection: March 2023

by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

Overview

Cardiff Montessori School was founded by the proprietor and current headteacher in 2016. The school implements the Montessori approach and curriculum faithfully. It empowers pupils to 'be Montessori' and embodies the values of kindness, honesty, respect and responsibility highly successfully. There is a determined focus on the promotion of well-being through these values, and consequently the school has the affection and loyalty of pupils, parents and staff.

Nearly all learning experiences throughout the school are authentic. Throughout the school there is a clear and progressive focus on sensorial, physical and cognitive development. Pupils are taught independent living skills from an early age, and kindness, respect, grace and courtesy are actively taught to pupils of all ages.

Pupils at the school are inquisitive, confident, responsible and highly independent. They feel happy and safe due to the nurturing and respectful relationships that exist between all members of the school. Pupils confidently resolve many of their own problems and excitedly take responsibility for their own learning. As a result, most pupils make strong progress from their starting points.

Leaders are knowledgeable, compassionate and caring and their management of the school is highly effective. There is a strong sense of staff unity and everyone at the school works together in pupils' best interests. All staff actively contribute to the school's improvement. However, these arrangements are not focused or structured sharply enough.

The Montessori teaching approach is firmly embedded across the school. All staff know their pupils extremely well and respond to their well-being needs effectively. Teachers work as 'guides' to facilitate pupils' learning, which is sequenced so that their knowledge and skills build as they move through the school. However, pupils do not always receive feedback on their work in a timely manner to help sustain improvements.

Cardiff Montessori School meets all the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003.

Recommendations

R1 Formalise and sharpen quality assurance arrangements to focus on key areas for improvement

R2 Ensure that teacher feedback is more immediate and helps pupils sustain improvements in learning successfully

R3 Improve the quality of writing across the school

Compliance with the regulations for registration

Independent school inspections are governed by the Education Act 2002 and related regulations: the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003. These regulations require an independent school to meet an appropriate standard in the following areas:

The quality of education provided by the school

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The suitability of proprietors and staff

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

Premises of and boarding accommodation at schools

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The provision of information

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

The manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school meets the regulatory requirements for this standard.

What happens next

Estyn advises the proprietor to amend its current development plan to show what actions the school intends to take in response to the recommendations. It is also advisable to circulate this plan, or a summary of it, to all parents/carers at the school.



School context

Name of provider	Cardiff Montessori School
Proprietor	Dr Esma Izzidien
Local authority	Cardiff Council
Language of the provider	English
Type of school	Independent primary
Residential provision?	No
Number of pupils on roll	79
Pupils of statutory school age	55
Date of previous Estyn inspection (if applicable)	
Start date of inspection	20/03/2023
<p>Throughout this report the school's nomenclature for each phase of education will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toddlers refers to pupils aged two to three.• The Children's House refers to pupils aged three to six.• Lower Elementary refers to pupils aged six to nine.• Upper Elementary refers to pupils aged nine to twelve.	

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