



## **ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY**

### **Prerequisite Montessori Pre-School Education**

When selecting children for places in the ESMPS Unit, the Trust must, in the interests of the wellbeing of the Unit, enroll those children best prepared for the Montessori Primary classroom environment. To that end, it has determined that a child requires minimum levels of preschool Montessori education as set out below:

- **On or before their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday**, the child must attend a **minimum** of five half-day sessions (2 ½ full days) per week and preferably at least four sessions that include a 3-hour work cycle.
- From or before the age of 4 1/2 and definitely prior to age 5, the child should attend at least two extended day sessions per week. Attendance at these sessions should continue until entry to the ESMPS Unit.
- The child must remain enrolled in a suitable Montessori pre-school and attend the required sessions until entry to the ESMPS Unit.

Staying for the whole day enables the child to cover more of the Montessori curriculum and also it gives the child an opportunity to complete more time-consuming work. During the afternoon the older children are working at a different pace to the morning and it is at this time that they enjoy small group work and projects. The Trust believes it is in the best interests of the children to be attending these full day sessions, and to be doing as close to five full days as possible from the age of 5 years until entry to the Unit at age 6. Although attendance of five full days is not critical to your application, attendance may have bearing on your application in relation to other applicants if we need to go to a Ballot.