



The Hills Montessori School

*Strategic Plan*  
2017 - 2021





The Hills Montessori School

## Strategic Plan 2017-2021

The Hills Montessori School provides a rich, caring and non-competitive environment. Students learn at their own rate, undertaking tasks appropriate to their level of development. The school's philosophy is based on the universal values of respect for self, others and the environment. We foster a love of learning and commitment to community.

In 2018, the school will celebrate 40 years of inspiring, supporting, challenging and encouraging our students to become self-motivated learners who act responsibly, embrace the future with confidence and a positive outlook, and become the best people that they can be.

The 2017-2021 Strategic Plan aims to guide our vibrant school community into the future. The plan has been developed through extensive consultation with students, parents and caregivers, staff and the school board. It encapsulates our values, mission and vision and will drive the school's operations over the next five years.

Building on our strong, established foundations, we aim to strengthen community engagement, enhance existing facilities and continue delivering enriching and meaningful learning experiences.

The Strategic Plan is the responsibility of the school board. It will be implemented collaboratively by the principal, staff, board and committees. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually.

The 2017-2021 Strategic Plan is organised under five key strategic priorities: learning and engagement, community and connection, space and place, business and governance, and values and culture. The Strategic Plan outlines our priorities, strategies and the actions that we will undertake over the next five years to further enhance the education, facilities and programs that we offer.

As a community, there is much we have to be proud of and much to look forward to in the future.

Cathy France, Principal

Paul Daly, Board President



A young child with blonde hair is looking at several colored pencils in small containers. The pencils are in various colors (brown, pink, orange, blue, green, yellow) and are arranged in a row. The child is holding one of the pencils. The background is blurred, showing a classroom setting.

# Our Mission

To offer a Montessori education that guides students in developing their independence, self-assurance, inner discipline and love of learning by providing them with a respectful, enriching and challenging environment.

To inspire and enable students to contribute positively and ethically to society.

# Our Vision

To provide a Montessori learning environment and community of the highest quality which guides and inspires each student to become the best person they can be.



# I. Learning and Engagement

We believe that education is an aid to life. We are dedicated to guiding the development of each child. We support the development of social, intellectual and ethical independence by providing an environment that is respectful, enriching and challenging. We value and promote self-directed learning with an emphasis on developing time management, organisation, negotiation and decision-making skills. We value our dedicated, capable staff and provide quality professional development to encourage and support collaborative practices and professional discussion, reflection and growth. We value working with parents as partners in the education of their children.

## Deliver the Montessori National Curriculum

- Understand and refer to the Australian Curriculum R-10
- Maintain strong emphases on literacy and numeracy across the curriculum
- Develop and embed age appropriate ICT capabilities across the curriculum
- Highlight and extend the richness of creativity, technology and problem-solving embedded in the cultural curriculum (STEM & The Arts)
- Focus on assessing student learning and moderating student work
- Review recording and reporting processes and formats
- Monitor graduates preparedness for senior studies

## Implement a wholistic curriculum

- Increase focus on education around risk-awareness, safety and wellbeing
- Formalise a framework for education on digital safety
- Focus on developing entrepreneurial skills and opportunities
- Extend use of 'place based learning' as an organising principle for learning experiences across the school
- Develop the kitchen and garden program at Yultiwirra campus

## Maintain a quality, dedicated and professional staff

- Further develop staff expertise in the application of Montessori principles and practices
- Enhance the existing staff performance development program

## Increase parent engagement

- Find fresh ways to promote Montessori principles and practices within the school community







## 2. Community and Connection

We value collaboration, consultation and a strong sense of community. We value inclusivity, individuality and diversity. Students experience building and being part of an effective community in the safe and supported context of the school, and regularly engage with the wider community. We aim to inspire and enable students to connect and contribute responsibly, positively and ethically to their communities both now and in the future.

### Foster student connection

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- Further strengthen student interactions between cycles
  - Increase the range of lunchtime opportunities for students
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### Promote clear communication with parents

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Increase information for parents in regard to:

- student transition
  - senior pathways
  - sporting & PE opportunities
  - science & maths opportunities
  - digital media and its usage
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Improve online communication

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### Connect with old scholars

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Collect and communicate information on post school pathways and endeavours of HMS graduates

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### Enhance community engagement

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Increase understanding of Montessori principles and practices in the wider educational arena

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Increase involvement and visibility in the local community

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Develop new ways of marketing the school promoting points of quality and difference

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## 3. Space and Place

We place significant value on the role environment plays in the development of the child. Our indoor and outdoor environments are prepared to nurture children's love of learning and natural tendency to work. 'Place' provides a primary resource for learning and our programs offer real and meaningful hands-on work. We foster respect for the environment, promote effective sustainability practices and garner support from the school community to care for our natural bushland.

### Utilise the natural bush setting

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Preserve and enhance the bush areas

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Extend existing outdoor learning experiences and nature play opportunities

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### Improve and upgrade school facilities

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Refresh and redevelop current learning spaces including:

- Cycle 1 outdoor learning area
  - games courts at Yultiwirra and Wairoa campuses
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Schedule the implementation of the 2016 Master Plan

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## 4. Business and Governance

We endeavour to promote the Montessori vision for a better world. Decisions in all areas of school life are underpinned by the school vision and values and the Montessori philosophy. We encourage parents to participate in school governance and committees. The school board is committed to quality improvement practices throughout the school.

### Ensure continued financial viability of the school

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Provide competitive but sustainable fees to foster a diverse community

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Achieve optimum student numbers without compromising integrity of school values, culture and learning program

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### Position the school strongly for future decisions and directions

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Develop a robust, flexible model for ongoing projection of student numbers and staffing needs

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Complete purchase of Wairoa campus from unit trust

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Schedule and commence necessary steps to establish three-year Cycle One classes (3-6)

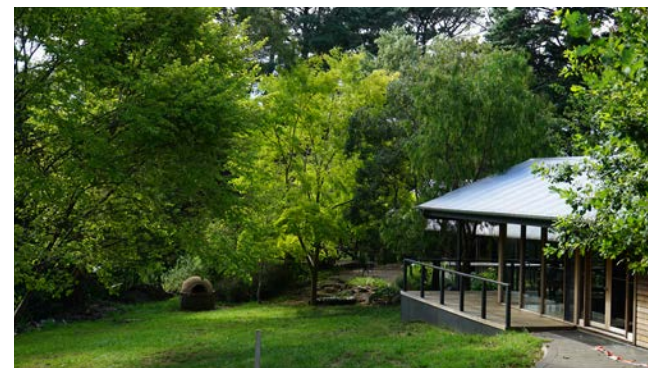
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Undertake futures exercise to establish ultimate population, structure, program offerings, resources and staff profile

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Investigate funding alternatives

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# S. Values and Culture

The Montessori philosophy is values-based and our school values guide all decisions. Self-respect, respect for others and respect for the environment are at the core of all that we do. We foster a culture in which all students feel safe, heard and valued. Our students and families value the strong relationships and non-competitive, caring environment of our school. We foster a love of learning and a sense of community responsibility. We support and encourage our students to become self-motivated learners who act responsibly and embrace the future with confidence and a positive outlook.

## Develop student collaboration and leadership

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Explore opportunities for student involvement and action in the local community

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Establish constructive connections with peers in similar school communities nationally and globally

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## Develop staff collaboration and leadership

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Encourage staff to take on diverse roles and responsibilities within the school

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Value and support staff involvement and contribution beyond school life

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## Enhance the wellbeing of our school community

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Increase access to the student well-being worker

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Provide diverse forums for education, sharing and support across the school community

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## Uphold and model the key values of Montessori philosophy

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Maintain an inclusive culture that respects all members of the school community and promotes social responsibility

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The Hills  
Montessori  
School



Education  
for life

### **YULTIWIRRA CAMPUS**

12 Anderson Road, Aldgate SA 5154

### **WAIROA CAMPUS**

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