

Frequently Asked Questions

What is happening at Curro Rosen Castle?

Curro Rosen Castle is undergoing major renovations to create the right environment to accommodate a brand-new, radically different philosophy to learning!

What is this this brand-new, radically different philosophy?

Curro Rosen Castle is adopting the exciting and internationally successful Curiosity Approach.

Why the new approach?

After the curriculum development team at Curro Head Office did wide-ranging reflection and research over an extended period, Curro Rosen Castle was spearheaded to be the first Castle to adopt and implement the Curiosity Approach and will become an accredited Curiosity Approach school.

Curro believes this methodology encompasses the latest international trends in Early Childhood Development and has been proven to be more successful than traditional teaching methods currently being followed in most ECD centres. This will also distinguish Curro Rosen Castle from any other nursery school in the area – it will be offering what no other school has.

What is the Curiosity Approach?

The Curiosity Approach is a modern-day approach to Early Childhood Development. It encompasses aspects of Reggio Emilia, The Steiner Education Approach, Te Whāriki and the Montessori Method of Childhood Education.

Tell me more ...

- It is a wonderful new philosophy using age-old techniques which reintroduces the magic of play-based learning to childhood.
- This approach embraces 'loose-parts play', the Reggio Emilia philosophy, as well as aspects of the Montessori Method of Childhood Education.
- Children are exposed to loose-parts play in a variety of environments where they can explore, experiment, create, get dirty and play to their hearts' content while being challenged to imagine, communicate and problem-solve.
- These environments have natural soothing colours and children play with 'real' objects in the absence of bright colours, cartoon characters and plastic toys so typical of mainstream ECD centres.
- The Curiosity Approach is learner-driven, where the teacher responds to the child's needs and not one where the teacher dictates the learning content and pace.
- It's not a one-size-fits-all approach, but a philosophy where children's individual preferences prescribe learning.
- The skills our children need to learn does not change, but *how* they acquire these skills will change dramatically.

Why the renovations?

Changing the teaching philosophy from a traditional 'academic', but play-based curriculum, to the Curiosity Approach necessitates certain changes in our classroom.

What are the renovations changing and why?

- The space our children play in will incorporate a variety of magical environments to provide them with a wealth of learning opportunities. That's why passage ways will be opened up and classrooms will be enlarged to create more space.
- For our children to explore their new environment safely, the outdoors will become an extension of the indoors and a heated, learn-2-swim pool, an additional playground, as well as a sensory recreational space will be added.
- Because our children will play mostly with everyday, 'real' items from our living spaces and outdoors, the overall look and feel will be inspired by nature and incorporate wooden furnishings. We will be losing the tables and chairs in our classrooms, as little bodies are not meant to be sitting still while doing desktop 'work'.

How does the Curiosity Approach work in practice?

- Curro Rosen Castle will be getting rid of almost all tables and chairs in classrooms, replacing it with different furniture and areas of interest in line with the new approach.
- When entering the classroom, our children will be drawn to various magical stations which the teacher will have carefully prepared to intrigue and arouse their curiosity.
- They will have absolute carte blanche to explore things that take their interest.
- Individual classes may delve deeper and longer into certain topics that take the child's/children's interest.

What are the advantages of the Curiosity Approach?

- An element of magic and wonder is reintroduced into the school environment.
- The natural self-confidence of the child is rediscovered and enhanced as they learn to trust themselves and experiment with choices and decisions throughout their day.
- It encourages collaboration, creativity and imagination, perseverance, initiative, problem-solving, responsibility, socialisation and communication, amongst other skills.

How will my child's progress be monitored?

With the Curiosity Approach the teacher develops a closer, more nurturing relationship with a child and monitors him/her continuously, which is another advantage of this teaching method. Curro Rosen Castle's current parent-feedback processes and quarterly progress reports will remain in place.

But, what about the curriculum?

Curro Rosen Castle will keep its excellent curriculum, it's only our approach that will change. We will continue to monitor all the developmental milestones.

Will the number of teachers increase?

No, but the new style will free the teacher up to interact on a one-on-one basis frequently with each child in her class every day. She will be better able to respond to each child's

emotional and educational needs due to the more nurturing relationship that the Curiosity Approach encourages.

Will teachers need extra training?

All Curro Rosen Castle's teachers fully support the Curiosity Approach and are already undergoing intensive training for the next 12 months to ensure that they adopt all the techniques required to offer this beautiful philosophy to our children.

When will the alterations/renovations be complete?

The building project, which includes the interior decorating of our entire campus, will be completed by mid-December. We are so excited to see the end product!

Will this new way of teaching allow my child to seamlessly integrate in mainstream schools?

Yes, this approach better prepares children for any curriculum and teaching style after nursery school – as the curriculum doesn't change, just the method of delivery. It also aligns with Curro's project-based education and 21st-century learning style.

When will this approach be introduced?

From the beginning of 2020.

Will school fees increase because of these changes?

No, fees will still be inclusive and will, in fact, become far more competitive as it will cover additional extras (like swimming).