

Meet Our New CEO

We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Karen Chetwynd** as the NEW Chief Executive Officer of Montessori Global Education



Posted: 18th June 2024

Karen started this year as Interim CEO and this week, was appointed to our Chief Executive Officer role permanently, following a rigorous recruitment process.

We were delighted by the quality of applicants for this role but Karen's knowledge and understanding of the organisation; the importance of its legacy and its potential to positively impact the lives of children, made for a strong application to lead Montessori Global Education in the coming years.

Karen's credibility and wide experience across the education sector together with a firm vision shared for the future of the organisation and charity during the interview process, made her the first choice for the role.



Of her appointment Karen Says...

“

“I am delighted and honoured to be the next Chief Executive Officer for Montessori St Nicholas and Montessori Global Education”.

“It is a time of change for our organisation”, says Karen, “we recognise the potential of our public profile and believe that we have an excellent platform from which to build an enhanced legacy for the organisation and the Montessori name in 2024 and beyond.

We benefit from a rich history of successful, reputable training which can grow, securing a long-term professional offer to those looking to enter the education industry or looking to enhance their career prospects.

Communities and leaders seeking insight as to how education of the highest quality can be repositioned, made more accessible and more inclusive, will be able to work with us, collaboratively co-creating educational models to sustain future generations.

We quite simply feel a responsibility to ensure access to education of the highest quality is “valued” more broadly - it is an essential component in securing opportunities and enhancing life-chances for young people and their families.”

”

Karen has supported our organisation since 2016, working previously with the MCI team to refine both academic and quality enhancement developments particularly across our courses and qualifications portfolio.

In more recent years, Karen served as Director of Academic Quality & Partnerships, and COO, managing much of the day-to day-activity of MCI.

These roles provided significant insight into the firm foundations of our organisation, led by her deep commitment to the promotion and alignment of our educational services - fully framed and guided by Montessori Principles in practice; a contemporary, hands-on application of the Montessori Philosophy suited to the challenges of today.

Karen's career experience has bridged sectors and covered a broad scope of industry from Active Leisure; Performance and Theatre Arts to Psychotherapy and Peripatetic teaching for a number of years. Well-versed in navigating the changing landscape of business development and sector compliance, Karen has always been drawn back to work with education focused, not-for-profit organisations.



In 2021, Karen led Montessori Global Education's development of a fully sustainable model of professional self-reflection and scrutiny seeking to raise standards in educational provision, through an international accreditation scheme -

STAR, Standards, Training, Accreditation, Review.

STAR operates as a robust quality assurance framework embedding Montessori Standards and Principles as a benchmark by which to approach professional recognition for education providers, associated products and services.

STAR's reach is now growing, illustrating just how transferable the application of Montessori Principles can be. STAR provides Montessori Global Education with a significant, globally visible, quality mark - available to those looking for recognition of their determination to provide excellence for children and families.

Karen values deeply the commitment of the organisation in resourcing such a broad portfolio of professional and educational services, which will all play a significant role as we forge ahead on an innovative path to ensure that Montessori is accessible, inclusive and for everyone - as we champion Montessori as the best approach to allow children to thrive and fulfil their potential.



“Karen has shown dedication to the development of our organisation through this CEO recruitment process and offers viable, yet sensitive, strategic development proposals as we navigate our next steps. My fellow trustees and the wider team at Montessori Global Education are looking forward to working alongside Karen as we move the organisation forwards positively building our strengths in the years to come”.

Geeta Sidhu-Robb, Chair of the Montessori St Nicholas Board of Trustees.

