

WELLINGTON PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Foreword

The aim of our prospectus is to inform you of our structures, aims and objectives. Please read and familiarise yourself with the contents, we are sure you will find it informative and of interest.

We are facing new challenges and exciting times as our country continues moving into a vibrant, integrated society. The task of educators and parents today, as we face the future, is to prepare our children so that they may enter society with the necessary skills and confidence to integrate, flourish and make a positive contribution to our nation as happy, fulfilled individuals.

Wellington Prep. School was founded intending to achieve the above goal with every child. The ultimate product of Wellington Prep is the educational development in the broadest possible context of each child as an individual. As parents of children in this school, you are shareholders, and are no doubt willing to share this commitment. As with everything in life – what one puts in, is what one gets out. We look forward to your support.

History of Wellington Preparatory School

Wellington Prep. School was founded in 2004 by a small group of individuals with vision and determination to forge an education facility capable of addressing specific criteria with regard to the education of their children. The debate on which model a school should pursue is as old as time itself, yet the founder members found that the children simply thrived on small classes, excellent teachers and a happy and stimulating environment not stifled by unnecessary rules and regulations.

Wellington Prep. School is situated on Diemersfontein Estate, which is central to both Paarl and Wellington communities. The school caters for playgroup (from 2 ½ years) to Grade 7.

Vision

- A highly successful accredited school, with a sensitive approach to education coupled with its' rural setting, will draw pupils from the whole of the Boland area.
- To prepare children socially and emotionally for their future with a broader understanding and respect for society and its' diversity, thus enabling them to enter adulthood with confidence and vision.
- An affordable, co-educational facility, where emphasis is placed on our natural environment and resources, whilst fostering a practical hands-on, life skills educational experience.
- Our children will understand and respect the necessity to maintain harmony between ourselves, our environment, its' natural resources and our fellow beings.

Mission

- We recognise that the children of today represent the future of mankind. We therefore set out to create a school where the child's development is at the centre of all activities.
- To develop a caring and considerate environment in which pupils are nurtured and develop academically to their maximum latent potential.
- To attract pupils from the broader demographic and cultural spectrum, ensuring that all children are educated together in a balanced and integrated environment.
- A balanced way of teaching is fostered in which academic, artistic and physical education subjects are taught in a manner that encourages integration between social and emotional development.
- We strive to develop an excellent relationship between pupils, teachers, parents and community, maintaining freedom of discussion and a healthy respect for opposing points of view. We encourage individual opinions whilst learning to take responsibility for our actions.
- Generosity and humility are to be appreciated and shared by all members of the school. We consider politeness, courtesy, honesty and integrity to be core values, incorporated in every school activity.
- To develop life skills through practical hands-on and `real-life` experiences.

Educational Principles

From the inception of Wellington Prep School, the group of pioneering parents ascertained that there were certain elements seen as non-negotiable.

- English medium, affordable, with experienced teachers who are eager to embrace a broad/lateral manner of tuition.
- Small classes of 15 to 18 pupils, where each child has quality time with their teacher, receiving a focused, stimulating and exciting education.
- An institution offering co-education within a balanced equity profile, preparing and enabling pupils to fully integrate and interact with the broad spectrum of cultural diversity in today's world.
- Nurturing of qualities such as honesty, loyalty, integrity, tolerance, leadership, respect, tenacity and self-confidence.
- A broader education designed to not only expose the children to life skills, but engender independence with the capabilities of lateral thought.
- Pupils are to be educated in the classrooms and the outdoors in a balanced fashion.
- Instil and engrain an appreciative awareness of the sensitive ecology.

Religion

True to our mission of being an all-embracing school, Wellington Prep. School welcomes children from all religious backgrounds. Religious studies form a part of the syllabus, but owing to the diverse cultures in our school we do not prescribe to any one particular religion.

School Management and Structure

- 1 Board of Trustees
- 2 Management Committee
- 3 College of Teachers

Admission

The Management Committee determines guidelines for admissions to all race groups. Sexism, racism or religious discrimination have no place in Wellington Prep.

Admission Guidelines

- An age restriction for all grades, according to accepted norms.
- We can accommodate children from 2 ½ – 3 ½ in a playgroup 3 or 5 mornings a week, thereafter the Grade O class is for 4 - 5 year olds and Grade R a more structured group for 5 – 6 year olds.
- A child may commence Grade 1 at the earliest during the year she/he turns 7 years of age and leave the school at the latest during the year which she/he turns 13 years of age.
- Pre-school attendance and previous school history is taken into account.
- Competence in the English language.
- Parents and pupils must abide by and accept the rules of the school and discipline.
- Parents must be aware of the **compulsory** financial commitment with regard to school fees.

Curriculum

Our curriculum meets requirements as laid down by the National Department of Education.

Emphasis is placed on lateral thinking. We encourage the children to question academic, environmental and social issues, and open debate will regularly take place in our classrooms. Small classes enable each child to receive individual attention.

We aim to select our teachers not only for their academic background, but also for their style and ability to impart knowledge in a creative, exciting and stimulating way, incorporating environmental and social issues to add depth and perspective to the learning experience.

Developmental Assessments

Should a child require assessment because of educational, physical, behavioural or emotional problems, the matter will firstly be discussed with the parents. Should parents wish to have their child assessed, they are requested to discuss the matter with the principal.

The school has contacts with private educational psychologists and therapists for which consultation costs can be claimed from medical aid schemes.

Enrichment and extramural activities

We encourage children to participate in at least one sport and one other extra mural activity.

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is encouraged as much as possible. We currently have a weekly tuck shop that requires children to take turns in planning and catering for tuck for the school. The seniors are required to do a costing of their sales. This is an area we would like to expand and develop at the school in the near future.

Outings

A variety of day trips and camps are planned throughout the year. The objective of these expeditions is to expose children to places, situations and environments that they would not normally encounter or experience in day to day life.

These trips are viewed not only as educational, but include aspects of team and character building, topped with lots and lots of pure good old-fashioned fun!

Sports

Physical activities are important in the overall development of children. They need to experience sportsmanship, team spirit, leadership, competition, physical development of their bodies together with physical skills such as hand eye co-ordination, reaction time and a sense of their physiological fitness. Friendships are forged and life skills are acquired.

Our current pupil numbers limit the sports we can participate in, however we do have a weekly ball skills program which teaches the skills required for hockey, soccer, cricket, volley ball and other sports. The older and younger children learn to work together on the sports field and at the same time are taught to be gracious whether winning or losing.

After Care Facility

This is available from 12h30 to 17h30 on school days. For more information consult the fee schedule.

Dress Code

Wellington Prep. School does not have a school uniform and our dress code is very simply that clothing worn should be neat, clean, practical and comfortable. We do, however have a school t-shirt which is worn for sport as well as on outings.

Snacks and Tuck

Break-time snacks should be healthy and along the lines of wholesome sandwiches, vegetables, biscuits, health bars, fruit, nuts and pure fruit juices, milk or water.

Fee structure

See attached

Future adults come from past experiences.

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