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**2024**

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**PREPARATORY PROSPECTUS**  
Oakley House Durbanville

## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The first Oakley House Preparatory School opened its doors in 2007, and I had the privilege of being Head of this wonderful school for eight years, from 2010 until 2018.

Since its inception 16 years ago, Oakley House has established itself in the southern suburbs as the school of choice for children who experience barriers to their learning. It now has a high school which has achieved a 100% matric pass rate since its first matrics wrote their National Senior Certificate Examinations in 2017, and a highly regarded Training and Support Centre which offers a host of specialised training programmes for parents and professionals in the field of Special Needs.

**What an honour it is for me to have been given the opportunity to plant a second Oakley House Preparatory School in the northern suburbs, in Durbanville, which opened its doors in January 2023!**

The children who attend Oakley House have without doubt the ability to access an academic curriculum, but they need specialised support in order to do so. The profiles of the children who benefit from an Oakley House education include those with a diagnosis of ADD, ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, sensory processing difficulties, anxiety, and high functioning ASD. Our small class sizes, with a maximum of 10 children in each class, and a teaching staff who are specialised in Learning Support, ensure a bespoke approach to the learning of each child placed in our care. Multidisciplinary consultation with specialists such as Educational Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Therapists, Physiotherapists and Counsellors ensures that we develop as comprehensive an understanding as possible of the strengths and challenges of each child. This leads to the development of a dynamic and specialised Individual Educational Plan (IEP) which is used to guide the team to support each child to reach their full learning potential. We follow the CAPS curriculum, which allows us to transition our children back into mainstream schools if and when they are ready to do so.

John Schaar said, *"The future is not some place we are going to, but one we are creating. The paths are not to be found but made, and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination."*

We are wholeheartedly invested in the futures of the children of Oakley House Durbanville.

If your child is struggling to thrive in his or her current educational setting, and you are seeking an alternative option for next year, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you, explain in detail what we have to offer as a school, and to find out more about the needs of your son or daughter!



**Catherine Fourie**  
**PRINCIPAL – OAKLEY HOUSE DURBANVILLE**

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## PREPARATORY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2024

Oakley House Durbanville is an independent inclusive school catering for learners who struggle to achieve their potential in a mainstream classroom.

We aim to offer sympathetic help to learners whose learning difficulties affect their ability to achieve their potential. Our priority is to restore confidence and to develop a positive attitude to learning by providing specialised teaching within an atmosphere of support and understanding for each learner's specific needs.

Our focus is the following:

- To rebuild self esteem
- To nurture self-confidence
- To foster an enjoyment of learning through deep engagement
- To foster motivation for learning
- To provide a complete education within a mainstream-like context
- To help each learner reach their own goals
- To identify and reach potential in strengths
- To strengthen areas of weaknesses
- To stretch without over-stretching
- To return learners to mainstream schooling when ready

### CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

Applicants should be of average ability, or above, and have a recent assessment from an educational psychologist indicating that they have learning difficulties. As a small specialist school with a very limited number of places, we carefully assess the suitability of each learner before making a decision as to whether we can offer a place. Oakley House Durbanville will not offer any learner a place unless the staff feels confident that they can help them. We will not accept learners who have emotional or behavioural problems which might seriously inhibit their progress or compromise the learning of others.

## ASSESSMENTS

Apart from the psycho-educational assessment (to determine potential), it may also be necessary for a learner to have a scholastic assessment (to determine actual functioning) on enrolment. If deemed necessary, a Speech and Language Therapy assessment and an Occupational Therapy assessment may also be requested. The therapist assessments are additional costs. If your child has had any of these assessments within the last 12 months, copies of the written reports are required. The results of these assessments will determine the starting point of any individual programmes.

## CURRICULUM

Our curriculum provides a specialised, multi-sensory approach with an emphasis on basic literacy and numeracy skills combined with access to the full National Curriculum. To ensure our learners receive an enriching school experience, the learning areas of Art, Music, Drama, Physical Education and Information Technology form part of our weekly timetable. Study skills are an important part of our curriculum and include learning techniques, memory strategies and organisational skills. A social skills programme is also embedded into the curriculum.

### Thinking Skills

To assist our learners in successful learning, it is vital that we offer them tools for thinking. We are a member of Thinking Schools South Africa (TSSA) and we partner with them in our quest to add tools to each child's "toolbox". We are currently embedding the *Thinking Maps* and *De Bono's Thinking Hats* deep into our learning programme.

### Literacy

We offer an intensive literacy programme that underpins the skills required for our learners to achieve the standards set in CAPS. Our learners are streamed according to their ability in small groups as we work to strengthen their literacy skills.

### Mathematics

We make full use of the *NumberSense* approach to teaching Mathematics. Whilst upholding the standards set out in CAPS, we firmly believe that the *NumberSense* programme teaches our learners to think more deeply about mathematical concepts. We do, however, make our own adjustments to the programme according to required remedial practices. Our learners are streamed according to ability in small groups for the daily learning of Mathematics.

## INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMMES OF LEARNING

Our learners are carefully assessed and individual literacy, numeracy, perceptual, social, emotional, and/or behaviour goals are drawn up, appropriate to each learner's specific needs. These goals are written up in an *Individualised Education Plan (IEP)* for each learner, accompanied by specific strategies to achieve them. Progress is closely monitored and programmes are regularly reviewed.



## **SPECIALISED THERAPY**

Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy on an individual basis or in small groups, will be arranged for those learners who need it. Therapists consult for Oakley House School in their private capacity and there is, therefore, an extra cost to parents for these therapies. Parents are able to claim from their medical aids for this therapy.

Remedial therapy is provided for those learners needing intensive small group instruction and extra support. Most therapy sessions take place at the school during the school day.

Class teachers and therapists work closely together to ensure continuity is maintained. Therapists are part of our multidisciplinary team and they are involved in all case discussions and feedback meetings with relevant parents.

## **SPECIALIST STAFF**

All staff are fully qualified in their own field and experienced in teaching learners with learning difficulties. At Oakley House Durbanville every teacher's objective is to remedy each learner's challenges as far as they can whilst giving them a confident enjoyment of learning.

## **EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES**

Oakley House School offers a variety of extra mural activities in the afternoons. Details of these offerings will be shared with parents in due course.

## **SMALLER CLASSES**

Small classes ensure individual attention and a caring and supportive environment.

A ratio of 1:10 in our classes enables teachers to work towards developing each learner's strengths as well as guiding them to use compensatory strategies to overcome areas of weakness.



## HOMework

Homework reinforces the work done in class, it alerts the teacher to work that is not fully understood and it teaches independence and self-discipline. It is an important part of educating the whole child. Parents are required to supervise and assist their child wherever necessary. It is essential that reading takes place each evening and we issue specific guidelines to parents on how to listen to reading. Reading and workbooks must return to school each morning so that follow-up can take place. The homework diary is a valuable means of two-way communication between parent and teacher and must be checked for messages on a daily basis.

## MEDICATION

The normal procedure is for any necessary medication to be given by parents at home. However, arrangements can be made for special circumstances to prevail – as in the administering of Ritalin, for example. Where it is agreed that medication is kept and administered at Oakley House Durbanville, a relating schedule will be completed and signed by the administering staff member.

## UNIFORM

Oakley House learners wear a comfortable uniform which may be purchased online through *Pitt Promotions* (<https://pittpromotions.com>). Sample of uniform sizes will be available at the school office.

## SNACKS AND LUNCHES

We believe that a child's diet has a direct influence on their ability to concentrate effectively.

Teachers carefully monitor the lunch boxes to ensure that none of the following is brought to school:

- Sandwich fillings with too much sugar  
e.g. jams, chocolate spread.
- Sweets, cakes, chips, etc.
- Fizzy drinks, Oros, flavoured milk, juice, etc.

The learners are only allowed to drink water at school and parents are required to provide a labelled water bottle for this purpose. Exceptions to the above may be made for birthday celebrations, but this must be prearranged and will be at the teacher's discretion.



## DISCIPLINE

It is essential that all learners at Oakley House Durbanville are made aware of the importance of good, well-mannered behaviour. We have a *Code of Conduct* and an incentive/encouragement scheme and every effort is made to reinforce whatever school rules are in place at the time.

Generally speaking, we believe that action and reminders to prevent poor behaviour are much more desirable and effective than a stream of punishments. The learners are always encouraged to take ownership of their behaviour and to help devise solutions to any problems that arise.

## STATIONERY

Parents are required to provide their child's personal stationery items, for example pens, pencils, colouring pencils, notebooks, files, etc., as well as all textbooks and workbooks required in the grade. A stationery list is available on enrolment. A separate photocopying levy is payable each year and this goes towards costs of individual printing and academic handouts and modules throughout the year.

## SCHOOL TERM CALENDAR

1 <sup>st</sup> TERM	2 <sup>nd</sup> TERM	3 <sup>rd</sup> TERM	4 <sup>th</sup> TERM
18 January - 20 March	9 April - 14 June	9 July - 19 September	8 October - 5 December

## SCHOOL HOURS

Grades 1-2	Grade 3	Grades 4-7
Monday to Friday 08h00 - 13h00	Monday to Thursday 08h00 - 14h30 Friday 08h00 - 13h00	Monday to Thursday 07h50 - 14h30 Friday 07h50 - 13h30

## NOTICE PERIOD

Should parents wish to withdraw their child from Oakley House Durbanville, written notice must be given not later than the first week of their child's proposed final term, failing which the fees for the following term will be payable in full, whether or not their child returns to school.

*We reserve the right to make amendments to the prospectus from time to time as and when the need arises.*





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**PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

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