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2025

ALP PROSPECTUS

Amended Learning Programme

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Oakley House Preparatory School is well-known for the excellent education it offers children who learn differently. It is our privilege to take children under our wing as they grapple with learning in one form or another. Since each child presents with unique strengths and challenges, we develop a dynamic and specialised programme that allows for flexibility within the CAPS curriculum that we follow.

Our mission statement, *'To provide a happy and nurturing environment which supports all learners in achieving their full potential and creates opportunities for all in the Oakley House Preparatory School community to grow,'* is what we strive for daily. Our multidisciplinary team of specialists work closely with us as we consider each learner's strengths and challenges regularly. The Individualised Education Plan (IEP), which is drawn up for each learner, is used as a guide for the team in assisting learners as they strive to reach their true learning potential.

With the impact that the pandemic had on education, we can proudly say that we were flexible and creative in our response to the needs of our learners during that time. Technology now plays an integral part in the teaching and learning at Oakley House Preparatory School and exciting adjustments have been made to our programme. We are continuously striving to keep abreast with the educational needs of our learners in a dynamic and challenging 21st Century, as we prioritise educating ourselves as educators. As Charles Darwin said: *'It is not the strongest of species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change.'*

If you are seeking alternative schooling for your child and the above resonates with you, do read on and then make an appointment to see me. I look forward to engaging with you!



Sandra Wiesner
PREPARATORY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

“ We are excited about the journey that we will take with each learner and family this year. We love what we do and would welcome a visit from any family who is concerned about their child's learning and development. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or the school office, should you have any queries.

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ALP PROSPECTUS 2025

Oakley House School is an independent school specialising in supporting learners who find it challenging to achieve their potential in a mainstream classroom. The School's aim is to provide a complete education sensitive to the academic, social and emotional needs of the learners.

At **Oakley House Plumstead Preparatory**, we aim to offer sympathetic assistance to learners whose learning barriers affect their ability to achieve their potential in a mainstream classroom, be it for academic, social or emotional reasons. Examples of difficulties include ASD, ADHD, dyslexia, processing and working memory challenges, anxiety, etc.

Our priority is to build 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. While we do this in an age-appropriate context of building independence, and of following the CAPS curriculum, we also offer an **Alternative Stream** for learners unable to cope with the level or pace of the CAPS curriculum. This prospectus pertains to the Alternative Stream offering. Please see our *Preparatory School prospectus* for the CAPS offering.

WHAT IS ALP?

ALP is an acronym for our **Amended Learning Programme**. The ALP learning programme differs from that which is presented in our regular grade classrooms as it is not bound by the grade benchmark requirements of the national curriculum. Oakley House opened its first Amended Learning Programme class in January 2013. The class was started in an attempt to cater for learners who found the pace and level of the CAPS curriculum challenging but who were still able to learn at their own pace and levels. ALP is **not only** a skills based programme, but an academic one too.

WHY ALP?

Placing learners in ALP does not mean that they cannot learn. ALP provides the space for learners to learn at their own pace and level in each learning area without the pressure and demands of reaching the grade standards of the national curriculum within a particular year. ALP provides a safe, nurturing environment for learners to reach their academic, social and emotional goals. Our ALP classes are multi-grade, multi-level groupings of learners in a certain age bracket. The Alternative Stream is divided into the **Foundation Amended Learning Programme (F ALP)** and the **Intermediate Amended Learning Programme (I ALP)**. The F ALP programme runs for learners who would traditionally be in Grades 2, 3 and 4. However, special circumstances would allow for a Grade 1 learner (age appropriate for Grade 2) to join the stream. The I ALP programme runs for learners who would traditionally be in Grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 should they have continued in the CAPs curriculum.

Our Ethos:

“Every student can learn, just not on the same day or in the same way” – George Evans

“If a child cannot learn in the way we teach, we must teach in a way the child can learn” – Dr Ivar Lovaas

In the Alternate Stream at Oakley House Preparatory School, we strive to build our learners' self-esteem and utilise their strengths to underpin their challenges. It is our belief that you cannot teach a child to read and write if they do not believe that they can.

CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE

Applicants to the Alternative Stream must have an assessment from an Educational Psychologist – not older than two years – indicating that this would be the appropriate route. Any other supporting documentation is taken into account (therapy reports, scholastic reports, etc.).

As a small specialist school with a limited number of places, we carefully assess the suitability of each learner during a week-long observation period before making a decision as to whether we can offer a place. Oakley House will not offer any learner an Alternative Stream place unless the staff feels confident that they can assist him or her. Oakley House will not accept learners who have emotional or behavioural problems which might seriously inhibit their progress or compromise the learning of others. The observation ensures the school is the appropriate place for the learner, and allows the learner to get a taste of the school for themselves. The observation carries a cost (See Tuition Fees). It is encouraged that learners complete at least one formal year of schooling (Grade 1) before joining the ALP stream. However, special circumstances are taken into account if it is in the best interest of the learner. Learners leave the Preparatory School ALP stream the year that they turn 13. Again, special circumstances may influence this. Learners are expected to be able to communicate verbally (albeit with a language delay) before entering this stream.

ASSESSMENTS

Generally, learners in the ALP class do not test well as they find assessments stressful and anxiety provoking. In the Alternate Stream, we believe that above all else, a child's self-esteem and confidence is **vital** to their ability to learn. It is with this in mind that the assessment process is done differently to that of other classes.

In the **Foundation ALP stream**, learners are assessed using continuous assessments. As our learners in this stream find formal assessment stressful, we assess in various ways unbeknownst to the learners.

In the **Intermediate ALP stream**, the IEP (Individualised Education Plan) forms the basis of the assessment and



is very much a working document throughout the year. As with the F ALP class, any necessary baseline assessments are done informally.

Scholastic assessments are conducted annually in both classes to track progress. These assessments determine the learners' performance age in Reading Accuracy and Fluency, Reading Comprehension, Spelling and Mathematics.

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is based on an adapted CAPS model. In addition to the academic curriculum, improving functional life skills and independence are areas that are specifically targeted. The following Learning Areas are covered in ALP:

English:

In English, we use a combination of the Phonics Approach and the Whole Language Approach. Key elements of the Rave-O programme, THRASS and the Toe by Toe programme are used to improve reading skills and reading comprehension. At the beginning of the year, each learner will undergo a Reading Profile assessment in order to determine their individual needs. The learners will then be placed in one of two or three ability groups and will receive daily reading skills support in class and for homework. These groups will take turns rotating from the mat with the teacher to desk work so that each learner's needs are met in an even smaller group setting. Each week, learners will also receive lessons targeting written comprehension skills, vocabulary development and creative writing skills. Listening and speaking skills are also covered using a variety of fun, interactive activities. Each learner has an online Reading Eggs account which supplements our programme.

Mathematics:

In Mathematics, our programme is largely based on the NumberSense and Numicon programmes as these have proven to be excellent in building the skills of number relationships, the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and problem solving. Alongside these programmes, we cover theme work such as Shape and Space (Geometry), Money, Time and Measurement. Again, learners are placed in smaller ability groups and each have targeted lessons on the mat and then consolidate these lessons through desk work. Each learner will have an online Mathletics account and their programme will be tailor-made according to their ability.

Project Based Learning:

Life Skills (F ALP) and Content subjects (I ALP) are taught using the Project Based Learning (PBL) teaching approach. We believe passionately that, if our learners are fully engaged in authentic learning, they will not only enjoy the learning experience, but it will be far more meaningful for them. Whilst learning the required key knowledge, skills and concepts from the syllabi, our learners also have the opportunity to practise what we call Success Skills. These skills are also referred to as 21st Century skills and are important soft skills for our learners to acquire in today's world.

Skills for Life:

This learning area is exclusive to the Alternate Stream and is designed to develop independence and self-sufficiency. The following lessons are conducted weekly:

- Cooking/Baking
- Gardening (drought permitting)
- Arts and Crafts
- Library visit (Plumstead Library)

Additional Specialist Subjects:

The learners also attend weekly lessons with specialist teachers for:

- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- VMP (Visual Motor Programme)
- Social Skills
- Drama

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Alternative Stream learners are very much a part of the school, and the stream's breaks and extra-curricular activities are scheduled to allow Alternative Stream learners to integrate with the rest of the school. Learners also attend the annual school camp, school assemblies, etc.

SPECIALIST STAFF AND SUPPORT

All teaching staff are SACE registered and carefully selected for their expertise and ability to understand our learners. Teachers of the ALP classes have a recognised teaching degree, as well as a qualification in Inclusive Education. Staff receive training and support in teaching learners with specific learning difficulties. This is conducted from our Training and Support Centre that offers a wide range of accredited face-to-face and online courses geared towards inclusive education.

SMALL CLASSES

Small classes ensure individual attention and a caring, supportive environment. This enables teachers to work towards developing each learner's strengths as well as guiding them to use compensatory strategies to overcome areas of challenge. The maximum amount of learners in each class is ten.

LEADERSHIP

At Oakley House School, we believe in accountability, ownership and leadership as important life attributes. Our



ALP 6 learners are afforded the same opportunities that our Grade 6 learners do with regards to monitoring duties and leadership roles.

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 Plumstead Preparatory, it will be strictly monitored and administered by the secretary or a member of management.

UNIFORM

Oakley House learners wear a comfortable uniform which may be purchased from the school's office and online through *Pitt Promotions* (<https://pittpromotions.com>).

SNACKS AND LUNCHES

We believe that a learner's diet has a direct influence on his or her ability to concentrate effectively. A Snack Pack Guide is given to parents in the admission pack. We do not allow sugary treats or food containing artificial flavourings. Learners are also not allowed to bring juice to school and only water is allowed.

DISCIPLINE

It is essential that all learners at Oakley House School are made aware of the importance of good, well-mannered behaviour and we expect adherence to the standards that make our school a safe environment and one that is conducive for learning. A code of conduct is signed by learners and parents 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 errant behaviour are more desirable and effective than punishment. The learners are always encouraged to take ownership of their behaviour and to help devise solutions to any problems that arise.

As part of our commitment to discipline and a safe environment, learners **may not** carry cellphones during the school day.

STATIONERY AND BOOKS

Parents are required to provide personal stationery items, for example pens, pencils, colouring pencils, notebooks, files, as well as all textbooks and workbooks required for the programme. A stationery list is available on



enrolment. A separate photocopying levy is payable each year and this goes towards costs of individual printing and hand-outs and modules throughout the year.

Alternative Stream learners all use workbooks but as each student follows their own programme, books may need to be purchased as and when learners take the various modules.

SCHOOL TERM CALENDAR

1 st TERM	2 nd TERM	3 rd TERM	4 th TERM
16 January - 28 March	7 April - 17 April 5 May - 27 June	22 July - 23 September	13 October - 4 December

SCHOOL HOURS

Foundation ALP: Monday to Friday 08h00 - 13h00/14h30

Intermediate ALP: Monday to Thursday 07h50 - 14h30 and Friday 07h50 - 13h30

The school gates open at 07h15 daily. There is an FP and IP Aftercare facility which ends promptly at 16h30.

NOTICE PERIOD

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

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TRAINING & SUPPORT CENTRE

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