



Remarkable education. Created for you.



2026

DEN PROSPECTUS

Development, Education and Neurodiversity

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Oakley House Preparatory School is well-known for the excellent education it offers learners who learn differently. It is our privilege to take learners 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.

swiesner@oakleyhouse.co.za



DEN PROSPECTUS 2026

Oakley House Preparatory School is an independent remedial school catering for those learners who struggle to achieve their potential in a mainstream classroom. The school's aim is to provide a complete education whilst enabling learners to master basic literacy and numeracy skills to a point where they can be reintroduced to mainstream education.

“There needs to be a lot more emphasis on what a child CAN do, instead of what he cannot do.” - Temple Grandin

At Oakley House Preparatory School we not only have a passionate belief in this philosophy but we practise it daily. Children come to our school with a deep need to be understood and given the opportunity to learn, grow and reach their full potential. Over many years we have worked with learners on the *autism spectrum* and it has become clear to us that some learners need more care than we can give in the Oakley House Preparatory School “mainstream” class. We are now at a point where we can meet the needs of these learners by opening a new autism unit at our School.

DEN, the name given to this specialised unit, embraces the **Development, Education and Neurodiversity** of the learners who will benefit from this unique experience at Oakley House School. We are thrilled to be launching it this year and are confident that it will reach those learners who meet the criteria to be members of the unit.

WHAT IS DEN?

DEN is a safe and reinforcing learning space on the Oakley House Preparatory School campus for learners with an ASD diagnosis needing more specialised teaching. These learners are immersed in the life of the School and have opportunities to integrate with learners in the other two streams of our School. They have equal exposure to specialist subjects, extramural activities and therapies as their needs dictate (*refer to the Preparatory School Prospectus for further details*). Due to the nature of their difficulties, an Individualised Education Plan (IEP) is developed for each individual, as well as an individualised Behaviour Intervention Plan (BIP). These are developed predominantly by their teacher, Mrs Robyn Gomes-Luis, and augmented by a team of specialists. Each learner works on targets within the CAPS curriculum, at their grade level, and it is their goal to reach these targets within the timeframe as set by the CAPS curriculum but in a personalised and stress-free manner. Home visits form part of the intervention plan and learners are given the scope to follow their interests.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM DEN?

- Learners with an ASD diagnosis
- Learners in Grades 2-5
- Learners who can access the CAPS curriculum at their grade level
- Learners who are challenged in the classroom setting due to group functioning difficulties
- Learners presenting with anxiety in the formal classroom setting

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENT INTO THIS UNIT?

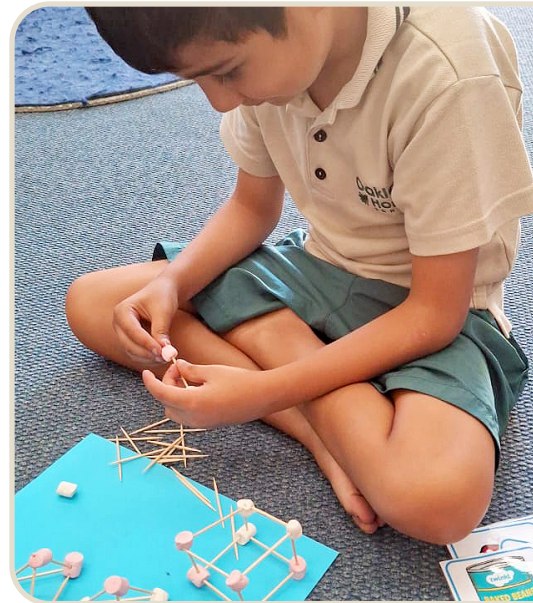
- ASD diagnosis
- Developing verbal skills
- Able to follow instructions without physical prompting
- Ability to display a level of joint attention
- Exposure to, or currently in, a group learning environment
- Prior learning in the CAPS curriculum, or another accredited curriculum, and ready to continue at an appropriate academic level

WHAT ARE THE KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF DEN?

- Small group teaching in a group that does not exceed 8 learners
- Individualised programmes tailor-made to suit each learner
- Careful behaviour management
- Reduced demands with more flexibility in the teaching programme
- Specialised teaching

WHAT IS THE OVERARCHING GOAL FOR EACH LEARNER ENTERING DEN?

Our goal is for each member of the DEN unit to reach a point, by the end of Grade 5, to re-enter the Oakley House “mainstream” classroom in



Grade 6. We desire that they would have learned the necessary skills to feel comfortable and free to learn in the group context. They will then be in a position to transition smoothly into Oakley House High School for Grade 7.

WHAT DOES THE DEN TEAM LOOK LIKE?

- The class teacher and case manager (Mrs Gomes-Luis)
- Class assistant
- A multidisciplinary team of therapists on campus (refer to the Preparatory School Prospectus)
- Centre for Play and Learning (consultative basis)
- Psychiatrists and psychologists (consultative basis)

Mrs Robyn Gomes-Luis has 19 years of experience in working with learners on the autism spectrum. She is highly experienced in working with IEPs and BIPs, including the conducting of home visits as a support measure for families. She is passionate about working with individuals who are neurodevelopmentally atypical and experiences great success as she works at developing the personal skills of individuals in need of specialised care.



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, 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 from the school's office and online through **Pitt Promotions** (<https://pittpromotions.com>).

SNACKS AND LUNCHES

We believe that a child's diet has a direct influence on his or her 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.

Our 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 are made aware of the importance of good, well-mannered behaviour. Oakley House School has 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, as well as the prescribed workbooks for the grade. Stationery and workbook lists are available on enrolment. A separate photocopying levy is payable each year which goes towards the costs of individual printing and the running of the photocopy machines.

SCHOOL TERM CALENDAR

1 st TERM	2 nd TERM	3 rd TERM	4 th TERM
15 January - 20 March	8 April - 26 June	21 July - 18 September	6 October - 2 December

SCHOOL HOURS

DEN Grade 2	DEN Grade 3	DEN Grade 4 and 5
Monday to Friday 08h00 - 13h00*	Monday to Thursday 08h00 - 14h30* Friday 08h00 - 13h00*	Monday to Thursday 08h00 - 14h30* Friday 08h00 - 13h30*
*Since these learners will be worked with in a flexible manner, we are using the above closing times as a guideline.		

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, written notice must be given not later than the first week of the child's proposed final term, failing which the fees for the following term will be payable in full, whether or not the child returns to school.

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

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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HIGH SCHOOL

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TRAINING & SUPPORT CENTRE

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