



OVERVIEW OF FOOTPRINTS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Footprints School is an independent special needs school which promotes the potential of learners through the provision of high quality education in order to equip each learner with skills to become productive, integrated members of society.

Footprints School is ideal for the learner who struggled in the remedial school however is higher functioning than a government special needs school. Problems experienced may be due to motor vehicle accidents, birth trauma, hereditary disorders, dyslexia, autism, medical conditions and / or general developmental delays.

Our staff comprises of qualified SACE registered educators, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, counselors and an Educational psychologist.

We cater for learners between the ages of 6 and 18 years. Class sizes are small to cater for individual needs, maximum 10 pupils per class. Termly an Individual Development Plan (I.D.P.) is revised for each child. An I.D.P. promotes the unique growth of academic, social and emotional skills designed specifically for your child. The I.D.P. process is a vehicle to establish communication between parents and school personnel as equal partners, to make joint, informed decisions regarding

- the child's needs, appropriate goals and
- services needed to support the child, so as to help him/her to achieve his/her potential.

The school has three levels.

Juniors

The key focus is on perceptual skills, literacy, numeracy and life orientation. There is a strong emphasis in empowering every child, making every child a reader. This approach continues throughout the school. Therapeutic support consists of pull-out individual therapy and an integrated approach into the classroom, to assess whether skills learned in therapy are transferred to another environment. Within this phase there are four classes - junior one (5 – 6 Years old), junior two (7 – 8 years old), junior three (8 – 9 years old) and junior four (9 – 10 years old) grouped according to age & ability levels. Class size varies from six to ten learners.

Intermediates (11 – 14 years old)

There are two streams available within the intermediate phase:

- **A Life Orientation stream** (for those learners who require additional time to acquire Literacy and Numeracy skills and the skills for independence) The curriculum consists of promoting skills from which the learner will benefit for life. The aim of this stream is the promotion of independence and supported work placement. Compulsory core subjects include literacy, mathematical literacy, cookery for independent living, computers, social etiquette, career preparation and work experience.

- **An Academic stream.**

Focuses' on Theme based teaching which covers: History, Geography, Natural Science and all the regular subjects. The teachers offer a differentiated approach thus catering for each child's ability. There is one class in this phase. Class size is maximum ten learners.

Seniors (14 – 18 years old)

Two streams are available:

- **A Life Orientation stream.**

The curriculum consists of promoting skills from which the learner will benefit for life. The aim of this stream is the promotion of independence and supported work placement. Compulsory core subjects include literacy, mathematical literacy, cookery for independent living, computers, social etiquette, career preparation and work experience.

This is a skills based stream with a less academic or theoretical component.

- **An Academic stream.**

Focuses on Theme based teaching which covers: History, Geography, Natural Science and all the regular subjects. The teachers offer a differentiated approach thus catering for each child's ability. There is one class in this phase. Class size is maximum ten learners.

Vocational Training:

Career preparation and work experience. The aim of vocational training is for the child to be integrated and productive within society.

Only seniors are offered a choice of vocational work experience which will change termly in order to establish which type of career path they may excel in

*Maintenance, *Educare (Crèche assistant)* Chef's Assistant* Office Skills – data capturing / filing / reception)

Senior learners (of both streams) can take part in our “Work Experience Programme” which takes place once a week from the age of sixteen years. Being part of the school curriculum, the learners work on a voluntary basis with no remuneration. Work placements allow the learners to apply and practice skills related to work ethics and effective communication. Work experience also provides learners with opportunities to develop work profiles and to gain a practical sense of reality in terms of goals and expectations of the job market.

School House Teams:

All our pupils are placed into house teams for sport as well as cultural challenges. The teams consist of pupils across the age range.

Our houses are:

Red: Flame Tree



The symbolism of trees shows growth, energy, determination and strength with solid root foundations.

Yellow: Tipuana Tree (Tipu)



We receive saplings into our school and take the time to feed them with love, knowledge and skills in order for them to establish solid foundations (Roots) while they grow in their own unique shape and form (Branches) turning into magnificent proud solid citizens who are providers of care, nutrition and shelter for all Gods creation.

Green: Oak Tree



Enrolment:

Should you wish to consider Footprints School as an option for your child, an appointment needs to be set up with the school head. Parents and child are invited to attend an initial interview. Parents will be required to complete a short questionnaire before or no later than the second day of their child's trial. All learners wanting to enroll at the school are required to bring with them any previous psycho-educational assessments, speech and language, and occupational therapy assessments. These assessments help staff identify the level at which your child is working. Learners may then be invited for one full week trial period at the school to ascertain whether Footprints is a suitable school. The school has a waiting list, which governs placement into classes. Applicants are organized from the date of registration.

Trial Process:

Within this full week period, we assess whether the learner is a suitable candidate for our school. If, after the trial period, our findings are that the child is not suitable, recommendations regarding alternative placement will be made.

We not only observe the child on an individual level but also his / her interactions within the classroom with peers and staff members. During the course of your child's trial, your child will, in addition to his / her teacher, be observed by professionals who form the multi-disciplinary team. At the end of your child's trial, the team involved meet to discuss their findings. Once the child's profile is formed, a decision is made concerning placement. The trial feedback is then verbally discussed with the parents and, if appropriate, a place is offered at Footprints School.

FootPrints Aftercare Service:

Footprints offers an Aftercare service which is run by separate staff in the Junior phase premises and covers:

- Homework supervision
- Outdoor active games i.e. summer time swimming, winter ball skills games including soccer, obstacle courses etc.

Further information:

Please visit our home website www.footprintschool.co.za to find out more about us. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.