UMALUSI

Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training

Heartbeat

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Accreditation and the Independence of Independent Schools

Introduction

The *Constitution of the Republic of South Africa*, section 29(3), allows for the establishment of independent schools. Everyone has the right to establish and maintain at their own expense, independent educational institutions that:

a) do not discriminate on the basis of race;
b) are registered with the state;
c) maintain standards that are not inferior to standards at comparable public educational institutions.

Section 46 (3)(a) of the South African Schools Act (SASA), 1996 as amended; provides that *the standards to be maintained by such (independent) school will not be inferior to the standards in comparable public schools.*

Independent schools have to operate within the confines of the Constitution and all relevant National and Provincial legislation. An independent school may not operate unless it is registered with the relevant Provincial Education Department (PED). The registration and de-registration of independent schools within a province is determined by provincial regulations governing independent schools.

Independent schools are therefore compelled to adhere to conditions of their registration by the PED. Critical to their independence is the freedom of an independent school to use its professional judgement to make decisions and to be able to determine and deliver programmes of academic excellence to learners **within the confines of the policies and regulations governing the qualification and curriculum** offered at that school.

Quality Assurance of independent schools

Independent schools must meet the quality assurance requirements for accreditation as determined by Umalusi in terms of the General and Further Education and Training Quality Assurance Act (GENFETQA), 2001, as amended in 2008.

The Evaluation and Accreditation (E&A) unit at Umalusi has a specific mandate in terms of the GENFETQA Act of quality assurance of private education institutions. The Act requires the Council to develop policy and criteria for quality assurance of private education institutions. To that end, policy and criteria for the quality assurance, accreditation and monitoring on independent schools and private assessment bodies was developed in October 2012 (Gazette 35830) and reviewed and amended in October 2017 (Gazette 41206).

In the same year of amendment, regulations regarding the criteria for the quality assurance, accreditation and monitoring on independent schools and private assessment bodies were developed and promulgated (Gazette 41206).

The following criteria are used in the quality assurance of independent schools for accreditation:

a) School ethos

An independent school is given the independence to follow their own distinctive vision and mission. In the application / execution of its ethos, the independent school must however give expression to an ethos that promotes and is not in conflict with, the values of the South African Constitution, applicable legislation and the principles of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). No form of discrimination should be evident in the independent school. Furthermore, adequate opportunities to learners for co- and / or extra-curricular participation must be provided.

b) Leadership, management and communication

Independent schools can determine their own leadership, management and communication structures and styles; there are no set requirements for the constitution of the structures. However, there must be some form of governance structure in place, and the principal of the independent school must hold a professional teaching qualification and have current registration with the South African Council for Educators (SACE). The functionality and the effectiveness of the governance and management structures is important, as evidenced during implementation, which is verified through minutes of meetings, amongst other things.

Independent schools are afforded freedom to develop policies and procedures that are in line with the constitution of the Republic of South Africa and the

needs of the particular school. Quality assurance is therefore based on implementation and review of the required policies developed by the school and submitted as part of the self-evaluation report.

c) Teaching and learning

To be considered for accreditation by Umalusi, an independent school must offer a qualification that is registered on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-framework (GFETQSF). Currently, the National Senior Certificate (NSC) is the only registered qualification for independent schools on the sub-framework.

By law, all teachers employed at a school must be registered with the South African Council for Educators (SACE). Umalusi therefore requires that 100% of teachers teaching at the independent school have current registration with SACE as dictated by law. In addition, for accreditation, at least 80% of teachers teaching subjects within the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) must hold professional teaching qualifications.

To be accredited by Umalusi to offer the National Curriculum Statements (NCS) leading to the National Senior Certificate (NSC) independent schools must meet all the learning outcomes and assessment standards prescribed in the NCS for the General Education and Training (GET) and the Further Education and Training (FET) bands. The NCS, Grades R-12 comprises:

I. The Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements for all approved subjects for

Grades R-12;

II. The National Policy Pertaining to the Programme and Promotion Requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12; and

III. The National Protocol for Assessment.

Independent schools are given the freedom to tweak or enhance the curriculum. In so doing, the independent school may not choose to discard some topics prescribed by the CAPS. Importantly, independent schools must demonstrate the capacity to develop learning programmes, lesson plans and assessment programmes in line with the minimum outcomes of the CAPS. Likewise, they must demonstrate the capacity to administer quality assessment at the required standard and in line with the minimum requirements of the CAPS and the regulations pertaining to the Conduct and Management of the National Senior Certificate Examination, GG 31337).

d) School results

In line with section 46(3)(a) of the South African Schools Act (SASA), 1996 as amended, the results must not be inferior to those of public institutions. Umalusi considers the results of the National Senior Certificate examination to determine whether a school's results are on par with or above the national average. Learner performance in all exit grades must be monitored and the results be analysed to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Independent schools may determine their own promotion and retention policies in line with applicable policies, as long as they are not inferior to the minimum standards as indicated in the NCS and the provisions for

registration by the PED.

This is critical to a school's freedom to use its professional judgement to maintain a high quality of education. There is always some transference of learners between independent and public schools, which requires an understanding of minimum requirements for promotion in the public school system. Independent school standards may exceed the minimum required by the state, and, therefore, an independent school's requirements may be more rigorous. However, on transfer to a public school, the independent school must be able to indicate a learner's competency in line with the minimum standards required at public schools.

Conclusion

Umalusi acknowledges the independence of independent schools in its quality assurance processes for accreditation. In the main, the design features of the evaluation criteria are not prescriptive but guided by the way the different independent schools operate.

Congratulations to the following independent schools which were granted accreditation over the period October 2016 - December 2017

	Name of School	*Province*	*Grades accredited to offer*
1.	Abbotsford Christian School	EC	1 – 12
2.	Abbotts College Northcliff	GP	10 – 12
3.	Academy for Christian Education	NW	1 – 12
4.	Agape Christian School	GP	1 – 7
5.	Al Falaah College	KZN	1 – 12
6.	Al-Aqsa School (Ext 1)	GP	1 – 7
7.	Ashbury Preparatory School	GP	1 – 12
8.	Ashton International College Ballito	KZN	10 – 12
9.	As-Salaam Combined School	KZN	1 – 9
10.	Assumption Convent School	GP	1 – 12
11.	Augrabies Akademie Privaatskool	NC	1 – 7
12.	Beaulieu College	GP	8 – 12
13.	Beaulieu Preparatory School	GP	1 – 7
14.	Bellavista School	GP	1 – 7
15.	Braambos Primary School	LP	1 – 7
16.	Calvary Christian College	GP	1 – 12
17.	Cedarwood School	GP	1 – 12
18.	Centurion Christelike Laerskool	GP	1 – 7
19.	Cornerstone College	GP	1 – 12
20.	Cornwall Hill College	GP	1 – 12
21.	Crawford School North Coast	KZN	1 – 12
22.	Curro Academy Soshanguve	GP	1 – 12
23.	Curro Bloemfontein	FS	1 – 12
24.	Curro Heuwelkruin Independent School	LP	1 – 12
25.	Curro Klerksdorp	NW	1 – 12
26.	Curro Krugersdorp Private School	GP	1 – 7
27.	Curro Roodeplaat	GP	1 – 12
28.	Curro Thatchfield	GP	1 – 12
29.	Darling College	WC	1 – 7
30.	Diocesan College Bishops	WC	1 – 12
31.	Dominican Convent School	GP	1 – 12
32.	Duo Edu Senior Onafhanklike Skool	GP	8 – 12

	Name of School	Province	Grades accredited to offer
33.	Durban Girls College	KZN	1 – 12
34.	Eagles Nest Christian School	LP	1 – 12
35.	Eastside Primary School	GP	1 – 3
36.	Eden College Lyndhurst	GP	1 – 12
37.	Educare Preparatory School	MP	1 – 7
38.	Eduplex Primary School	GP	1 – 7
39.	Elite College Private Secondary School	GP	8 – 12
40.	Elkanah House Blouberg	WC	1 – 3
41.	Elkanah House High School	WC	7 – 12
42.	Elkanah House Sunningdale	WC	1 – 6
43.	Elmar College	GP	1 – 12
44.	Franciscan Matric Project	GP	10 – 12
45.	Funanani Christian School	GP	1 – 3
46.	Future Achievers Academy	MP	1 – 7
47.	Gateway Christian School	KZN	1 – 7
48.	Get Ahead Project Queenstown	EC	1 – 7
49.	Global Leadership Academy	EC	8 – 12
50.	Grace Christian Private School	MP	1 – 12
51.	Grantleigh School	KZN	1 – 12
52.	Hamptons Primary School	KZN	1 – 3
53.	Hirsch Lyons Boys High School	GP	8 – 12
54.	Hirsch Lyons Girls High School	GP	8 – 12
55.	Hirsch Lyons Primary School	GP	1 – 7
56.	Holy Rosary School - Gauteng	GP	1 – 12
57.	Holy Trinity Secondary Catholic School	GP	8 – 12
58.	Hope Preparatory School	EC	1 – 7
59.	Jeppe Education Centre Vereenig-ing	GP	8 – 12
60.	John Wesley School - Eshowe	KZN	1 – 7
61.	Jubilee Christian School	GP	1 – 12
62.	King David Primary School Victory Park	GP	1 – 7
63.	Kingfisher Private School	LP	1 – 12
64.	Kings School Goodwood	WC	1 – 3
65.	Kingswood College	EC	1 – 12
66.	Klerksdorp Methodist Primary School	NW	1 – 7
67.	Knights Preparatory School	GP	1 – 7

	Name of School	Province	Grades accredited to offer
68.	Kyalami Preparatory School	GP	1 – 7
69.	La Salle College	GP	1 – 12
70.	LEAP Science and Maths School - Alexandra	GP	8 – 12
71.	LEAP Science and Maths School - Diepsloot	GP	8 – 12
72.	Leeuwenhof Akademie	GP	1 – 12
73.	Lenasia Muslim School	GP	1 – 12
74.	Maggies Millennium Private School	NW	1 – 7
75.	Maragon Private School Olympus	GP	1 – 12
76.	Maranatha Christian School Gauteng	GP	1 – 12
77.	Matseutseu Combined School	LP	1 – 12
78.	Merrifield Preparatory School and College	EC	1 – 12
79.	Middelburg Muslim School	MP	1 – 12
80.	Midland Primary and High School	GP	1 – 9
81.	Mitchell House	LP	1 – 12
82.	Môrester Akademie	WC	1 – 9
83.	Mveledziso Primary School	LP	1 – 7
84.	Nardini Convent School	KZN	1 – 7
85.	New Covenant Primary School	NW	1 – 7
86.	Nieuwoudtville Akademie	NC	1 – 3
87.	Nizamia Islamic School	KZN	1 – 12
88.	Nomaswazi High School	KZN	8 – 12
89.	Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls	GP	8 – 12
90.	Our Lady of Fatima Convent School	KZN	1 – 12
91.	Paterson Park School	GP	1 – 7
92.	Pietermaritz Primary School	KZN	1 – 7
93.	Pretoria Preparatory School	GP	1 – 7
94.	Prince Alfred Primary School	KZN	1 – 7
95.	Riverside Primary School	WC	1 – 7
96.	SA College Private School	GP	1 – 12
97.	Sacred Heart College	GP	1 – 12
98.	Sancta Maria Junior School	GP	1 – 7
99.	Sathya Sai Primary School Lenasia South	GP	1 – 7

	Name of School	Province	Grades accredited to offer
100.	Sathya Sai School Newcastle	KZN	1 – 3
101.	School of Transformation	GP	1 – 12
102.	Shree Bharat Sharda Mandir	GP	1 – 12
103.	Somerset West Private School	WC	1 – 12
104.	St Augustine Private Christian School	NW	1 – 7
105.	St Benedict's College	GP	4 – 12
106.	St Conrad's College	NW	1 – 12
107.	St David's Diocesan Primary School	KZN	1 – 7
108.	St George Comprehensive School	MP	1 – 12
109.	St John Berchmans Primary School	GP	1 – 7
110.	St Peter's College	GP	8 – 12
111.	St Peter's Preparatory School	GP	1 – 7
112.	Tersia King Academy	GP	1 – 12
113.	The King's School West Rand	GP	1 – 12
114.	The Kings School Linbro Park	GP	1 – 12
115.	The Wykeham Collegiate	KZN	1 – 12
116.	Tjhabelang Primary School	FS	1 – 7
117.	Tree Tops Primary School	KZN	1 – 3
118.	Tshwane Christian School	GP	1 – 12
119.	Tshwane Muslim School	GP	1 – 12
120.	Veritas College (High School)	GP	8 – 12
121.	Verney College	GP	1 – 12
122.	Victory Primary School	NW	1 – 7
123.	Volkskool Brakpan	GP	1 – 12
124.	Vuleka Primary School	GP	1 – 3
125.	Vuleka School - Rosebank	GP	4 – 7
126.	Waterfall College	KZN	8 – 12
127.	Williston Junior Kollege	NC	1 – 7

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