



Tel: 011 460 1672  
Cell: 081 879 5646  
info@unity-college.org.co.za  
www.unity-college.org.za

NPC 051-231 | PBO 930 006 535  
Reg. No: 1991/004663/08  
59 Runnymede Ave | Chartwell North Estates  
PO Box 1029 | Witkoppen 2068

## OVERVIEW OF UNITY COLLEGE (For Prospective Parents)

Unity College 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.

Unity College is ideal for the learner who struggled in a remedial school but is higher functioning than learners in a government special needs school. Our annual results of nationally written examinations in AET Literacy and Numeracy, as well as the nationally written exams for Knowledge Network (computers), plus our Skills for Life and Work Accredited courses will attest to this.

Problems experienced may be due to motor vehicle accidents, birth trauma, hereditary disorders, dyslexia, medical conditions and / or general developmental delays.

Our staff comprises of qualified educators, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, a counsellor and a psychologist.

We cater for learners between the ages of 6 and 21 years or more. Class sizes are small to cater for individual needs. Twice a year an Individual Development Plan (I.D.P.) is formulated for each child. An I.D.P. designed specifically for your child promotes the unique growth of academic, social and emotional skills. 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 and appropriate goals
- services needed to support the child, so as to help him/her to achieve his/her potential.

The school has one class per year level. There are twelve years in total with an option for a further year of study as a college student.

**Early Intervention Centre** Catering for pupils from the age of 3, our early intervention centre focusses on the acquiring of essential social, emotional and academic skills required for the smooth transition into formal schooling. Therapies are offered on a cycle basis with collaboration between school and home. A varied sensory diet is offered to promote supervised by our therapy practitioners.

## Juniors

The key focus is on perceptual skills, literacy, numeracy and life orientation. There is a strong emphasis on empowering every child and 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 children progress through Junior 1 – 4 in three classes. Class size varies from six to twelve learners. Innovative teaching models like TEACCH are employed during this phase to promote independent work.

## Intermediates

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.
- **An Academic stream.** Apart from core Numeracy and Literacy History, Geography, Natural Science and all the regular subjects are covered. Pupils are grouped according to their profile to create cohorts within the core subjects. Here differentiation is by input. In general subjects we apply a differentiation by outcomes model.

There are five classes in this phase. Class size is usually less than twelve learners.

## Seniors

The senior phase consists of four years. Each class may have between ten and twelve learners.

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. This is a skills based stream with a less academic or theoretical component, but is assessed and accredited qualifications can be achieved.
- **A Vocational Training stream:**  
The following accredited courses are offered:
  - AET Numeracy and Literacy up to level 4.
  - Knowledge Network
  - Educare (Crèche Assistant Course)
  - Courses in Skills for Work and Life

Three levels of Skills for Work and Life will be run concurrently in Seniors LO, 1, 2, 3 and 4 with some measure of flexibility between them. Each level covers a wide range of skills ensuring that

students become competent in situations they are likely to encounter as young adults. Credits are accumulated, culminating in awards, certificates or diplomas over three to five years.

- Entry Level 1: Foundational courses
- Entry Level 2: Skills for independence and work
- Entry Level 3: Skills for work (Senior 4 only)

All literacy and numeracy / mathematics classes are run concurrently ensuring that each student is able to work at his / her own level and pace.

All senior learners (of both streams) take part in our **“Work Experience Programme”** which takes place once a week on a Tuesday. The programme starts with an introductory work skills development programme at Logwood Villages and, when ready, learners progress onto more independent work experience in the open labour market. Being part of the school curriculum, the learners work on a voluntary basis with no remuneration. Work placements allow the learners to apply and further develop 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. Some of the skills highlighted in our courses are integrated here.

Learners are ready to leave Unity College when they are mature enough to confidently tackle the next phase of their lives be it further study, employment in the working world or placement in a sheltered or semi-sheltered work placement.

### **CSI:**

Unity College currently subsidises or provides free schooling to approximately 12% of our enrolled pupils. These pupils are predominantly from nearby homes, orphanages and places of safety.

### **Enrolment:**

Should you wish to consider Unity College as an option for your child, an appointment needs to be set up with the school head. Parent and child are invited to attend an initial interview. All learners wanting to enrol at the college are required to bring with them a full psycho-educational assessment, a speech and language and an occupational therapy assessment depending on the age of the applicant. These assessments help staff identify the level at which your child is working. Learners may then be invited for a two week trial period at the school to ascertain whether Unity is a suitable school. The school has a waiting list, which governs placement into classes. Applicants are organised from the date of registration.

### **Trial Process:**

Within this two 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, you child will, in addition to his / her teacher, be seen 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 presented in total, a decision is made concerning placement. The trial feedback is then presented to the parents and, if appropriate, a place is offered at Unity College.

### **Unity Bus Service:**

Unity offers three bus routes at present with the following pick-up / drop-off points (in bold):

- ***Parktown Bus Route:***  
**Temple Emanuel** (Oxford Road); **Rosebank Union Church** (Cnr. William Nicol and Sandton Drive) and **Loch Road** (off Cumberland Road, Bryanston).to Unity and back
- ***Midrand Bus Route:***  
**Christ Church School** (Cnr 9<sup>th</sup> Road and 11<sup>th</sup> Rd), **Urban Life (Botshabelo)** (Main Rd) to Unity and back.
- ***Honeydew Bus Route:***  
**NHC Healthcare Centre** (Cnr Dolfyn St & Christiaan De Wet Rd) and **North Point Church** (Cnr. Bellairs Dr & Malibongwe Dr).

A further pick-up/drop-off point, **St Marks Church** (Cnr Hyperion and Witkoppen Roads), is still to be confirmed.

### **Further information:**

Please visit our home website [www.unity-college.org.za](http://www.unity-college.org.za) to find out more about us. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information.