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SCHOOL PROFILE OF UNITY COLLEGE

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

The school is an ISASA affiliated independent school just shy of 30 years' experience in special needs education. Unity is Department of Education and Umalusi compliant and regularly participates in evaluation by the Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA).

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

Unity College has a unique place in South Africa's educational landscape.

- ✓ Caters for learners aged **3 - 23 years**
- ✓ **Small classes** for individual attention, never exceeding the LSEN ppn
- ✓ **Individual Development Plans** developed by all stakeholders | designed specifically for the learner and promotes the unique growth of academic, social and emotional skills. This happens twice a year. Realistic medium term academic and behavioural goals are set by a team consisting of the child, parents / caregivers, educators, therapists and informed by the insights of work experience providers. Everyone is involved to make joint decisions regarding a) the child's needs and appropriate goals as well as b) services needed to support the child, so as to help him/her to achieve his/her potential.
- ✓ **Life skills** embedded in all courses. Personal skills include personal care, personal safety, money management, cookery and transportation; personal social skills include differentiation in communication, relationship building, citizenship, managing peer pressure, substance use / abuse, self-regulation and self-advocacy; ICT skills and awareness in the use of the internet, social media and cell phone; work skills
- ✓ **Integrated therapy** (Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Registered Counselling and Counselling Psychology)
- ✓ **Differentiated CAPS curriculum** as a benchmark of minimum achievement, and **PIVATS** (Performance Indicators for Value Added Target Setting)

School Hours Early Intervention and Junior Phase

School starts 8am and ends 15:00 Mon. and Wed. (Extra Mural Days)

Tues. and Thurs. until 13:30

Friday we close at 13:00

School Hours Intermediates/Senior Learners

Class starts 8am and the day ends 15:00 Mon. and Wed. (These are still extra mural days)

Tues. and Thurs. School ends 14:00

Friday we close at 13:00

Early Intervention Centre

Caters for learners from the age of three. Our Early Intervention Centre supports each learner with the acquisition of essential social, emotional and academic skills required for the smooth transition into a more formal schooling environment. Therapies are offered on a cycle basis with collaboration between school and home.

Juniors

The key focus is on perceptual skills, functional literacy and functional numeracy as well as empowering every child to be as independent as possible. This approach continues throughout the school. Therapeutic support consists of both individual and group therapy. Therapy is integrated into the classroom in order to assist with the transfer of skills learnt. Class size varies from six to ten learners. Innovative teaching models like TEACCH are employed during this phase to promote independent work.

Within this phase children progress through Junior 1 to 4 in three classes.

Intermediates and Senior's

- The intermediate phase consists of five years. Class size is usually less than twelve learners.
- The senior phase consists of three to four years. Each class may have between ten and twelve learners.

From 2019 Unity College will align itself with the Differentiated CAPS Curriculum for Gr. R to Gr. 5.

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 stream:** Vocational Stream courses are chosen for applicability to the interests and capabilities of learners, and with a view to their employability

The following accredited *courses* are offered:

- Knowledge Network (to be included in the Office Administration Vocational Training)
- Consumer Studies
- Ancillary Health Care
- Office Administration

Academic and Life skills *subjects* will include:

- English home language
- Mathematics
- Personal and Social well being
- Natural Science
- Physical Education
- Afrikaans first additional language
- Arts and Crafts
- AET Numeracy and Literacy up to level 4 (NQF1)

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.

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. For students who need extra coaching, Unity College offers further support.

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 multidisciplinary 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 9th Road and 11th 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).

CSI:

Unity College currently subsidises schooling to a handful of our enrolled learners. These Learners are predominantly from nearby homes, orphanages and places of safety.

If you would like to get involved in our Non Profit Organisations Corporate Social Investment, please go to <http://unity-college.org.za/be-the-difference/>.

Further information:

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