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SCHOOL PROFILE

Our school promotes the potential of pupils through the provision of high quality education in order to equip each pupil with skills to become productive, integrated members of society. Barriers to Learning may be due to low vision, cochlea implants, epilepsy, motor vehicle accidents, birth trauma, genetic disorders, dyslexia, medical conditions and / or general developmental delays.

Unity College is a wheelchair friendly school. An ISASA affiliated Independent School with proudly over 31 years' experience in Special Needs Education.

Our staff comprises of qualified Educators, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapist Assistant, a Social Worker, an Art and Drama Therapist and Music Appreciation Teacher.

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

- ✓ The school caters for pupils aged **3 – 24+ years**
- ✓ **Small classes** (min. 8 per class) for individual attention, never exceeding the LSEN ppn.
- ✓ **Individual Development Plans** developed by all stakeholders | designed specifically for the pupil and promotes the unique growth of academic, social and emotional skills. These meetings take place 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 the child's needs and appropriate goals, as well as services needed to support the child, in order to help him/her to achieve his/her potential.
- ✓ **Life skills** are 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 abuse, self-regulation and self-advocacy; ICT skills and awareness in the use of the Internet, Social Media and cell phone, as well as work skills.
- ✓ **Integrated Therapy**
- ✓ **Differentiated CAPS curriculum** as a benchmark of minimum achievement, and **PIVATS** (Performance Indicators for Value Added Target Setting), as an Assessment Tool in the Junior Phase

School Hours:

- **Early Intervention Phase** | School starts 8am and ends 12:00 daily
- **Junior Phase** | School starts 8am and ends 14:30 Mon. and Wed. (Sports Days) | Tues. and Thurs. 13:30
- **Intermediates & Senior Phase + VTC Trainees** | Class starts 8am and the day ends 14:30 Mon. and Wed. (Sports Days) | Tues. and Thurs. School ends 14:00

On Friday, Junior Phase to VTC close at 13:00

Early Intervention Centre (3-5Y)

Caters for pupils from the age of three. Our Early Intervention Centre supports each pupil 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. EIC phase pupils receive two Group Speech and two Group Occupational Therapy sessions per week, in groups no bigger than four, as part of the school fees one pays. One lesson of Music Appreciation is included in their weekly programme.

Juniors (6-11Y)

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 Group Therapy (Individual on request, payable by the parent). Therapy is integrated into the classroom in order to assist with the transfer of skills learnt. Innovative teaching models like TEACCH are utilised during this phase to promote independent work. Junior Phase pupils receive two Group Speech and two Group Occupational Therapy Sessions per week, in groups no bigger than four, as part of the school fees. One lesson of Music Appreciation is included in a week. There are 3 streams, based on the pupil's ability.

Intermediates and Seniors (Int. 12-15Y / Snrs 16- +/-18Y)

Intermediate and Senior Phase pupils receive one Group Speech and one Group Occupational Therapy session per week, as part of the school fees one pays.

- The Intermediate Phase consists of plus minus four years.
- The Senior Phase consists of three to four years.

From 2019 Unity College aligned 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 pupil 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 pupils, and with a view to their employability

The following *courses* are offered:

- Knowledge Network (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
- Arts and Crafts
- AET Numeracy and Literacy up to level 4 (NQF1)
- Tiny Hands sign Language

All Literacy and Numeracy Lessons are run concurrently ensuring that each student is able to work at his / her own level and pace.

All Senior pupils 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 and, when ready, pupils progress onto more Independent Work Experience in the open labour market. Being part of the school curriculum, the pupils work on a voluntary basis with no remuneration. Work placements allow the pupils to apply and further develop skills related to work ethics and effective communication. Work experience also provides pupils with opportunities to develop work profiles and to gain a practical sense of reality in terms of goals and expectations of the job market.

Pupils 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, in the Senior Phase or Vocational Training Centre.

Vocational Training Programme | Centre (VTC) (18–24Y)

The lack of career specific opportunities for Special Needs Pupils when leaving school, lead to the opening of our VTC where we specialise in the Hospitality, the laundromat sector as well as offering a variety of Short Courses.

The VTC aims to equip Trainees with an in-house qualification. Both a Portfolio of Evidence and a Certificate are handed over on completion of the full course. In 2021 we introduced Short Courses to expand our VTC offering. Trainees are exposed to practical Work Experience where the focus is to consolidate the learned skills. More course information <https://unity-college.org.za/unity-vtc/>

Enrolment:

Should you wish to consider Unity College as an option for your child, an appointment needs to be set up with the Admin Office. Parent and child are invited to attend an initial interview. All pupils wanting to enrol at the school are advised to bring with them a full psycho-educational assessment, a Speech and Language and an Occupational Therapy Assessment, if available, depending on the age of the applicant. These assessments help staff identify the level at which your child is working. Pupils may then be invited for a 1 to 2-week trial period at the school.

Trial Process:

*A Trial is **not** necessary for the EIC and VTC Phases.

Within this trial period, we observe whether the pupil 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. At the end of your child's trial, the team involved, meets 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 (usually the last day of trial) and, if appropriate, placement is offered at Unity College. School hours for when on trial are 9am – 13:30 daily.

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 (& Fourways Gardens) 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) to Unity and back.

CSI:

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/> where you will find a list of needs. Tax 18A can be supplied for your kind donation.

Further information:

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