

Homeschooling vs Distance Education

What is homeschooling (ONLY APPLICABLE TO GR R – 9 learners):

As per Government Notice No. 1411, 23 November 1999:

A parent (this includes: parent or guardian, person legally entitled to custody, or the person who undertakes to fulfill the obligations towards the learner's education at school) can choose to home school his/her own child; in addition, the parent may use a tutor for specific areas in the curriculum. This is a legal, independent form of education.

If your child is of compulsory school-going age you as parent need to apply to the Head of Department, to register your child for home schooling.

Once registered the following duties must be performed:

- Record of attendance must be kept.
- There must be an up to date portfolio of the child's work with records of progress and proof of intervention.
- Evidence of continuous assessments as well as an exam at the end of each year. This applies especially at the end of a phase (Gr 3,6 and 9), with a statement of whether the outcomes have been achieved. (Minimum promotional requirements available on the website of the Department of Education)
- Keep assessment results for a period of 3 years
- At the end of each phase appoint a person/s, approved by the Head of Department, to assess the child and submit a statement to the Head of Department confirming that the learner has reached the required level.

What does this mean for you:

- Change the way you perceive your child's education and stop insisting on a Report.
- You are the child's educator, therefore you educate, assess and keep record of progress, and only at the end of a phase do you require the help of a person/s (at your own cost) to assist in assessing.

What is Distance Education (ONLY APPLICABLE TO GR 10 - 12 learners):

- The learner must be registered with an Assessment body (e.g. SACAI) through a Distance Education provider (e.g. Auxilio) for the 3-year NSC qualification.
- Parent/learner takes full responsibility of his/her education as this is a NSC qualification and does not fall under compulsory school going age.
- A learner may make use of any aid available to assist in learning, for example a tutor or the internet.
- The Assessment Body is responsible for assessing whether the learner has met the minimum promotional requirements, therefore the learner must comply to the rules and regulations of assessment.