

Riviera Primary

School Governing Body

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5 June 2020

PARENT CIRCULAR 06/2020

Dear Parents

**RE: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

In light of the planned re-opening of schools and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governing Body wants to ensure that parents are aware of the situation with regards to school attendance. Section 3(1) of the South African Schools Act determines that all learners between the ages of 7 years and 15 years have to attend school. It is the responsibility of parents or guardians to ensure that such learners attend school. Should parents fail to ensure that learners attend school in accordance with the Act, they will be guilty of an offence.

Parents can apply to the Head of Department (HOD) for a learner to be exempted from attending school alternatively apply to and register with the provincial department of education to provide education for his/her own child/ren at home (better known as “home schooling”). To provide home education to learners, a parent will have to demonstrate that such home schooling will meet curriculum requirements, that there will be adherence to certain minimum standards and that home schooling would be in the best interest of the learner/s.

We have been receiving a lot of enquiries with regards to home schooling.

According to the DBE website, the following process has to be followed:

1. The parent has to apply electronically, using the applicable application form, to the head of his/her Provincial Education Department.
2. The following documents form part of the application:
3. Certified copy of the parent’s ID.
4. In case of foreign nationals certified copies of passport/study permit/work permit/Asylum document is required.
5. Last copy of school report. If the child is only starting school now, parents must attach an immunisation card.
6. Weekly timetable which includes contact time per day.
7. Breakdown of terms per year (196 days per year).
8. Learning programme.
9. Certified copy of child’s birth certificate.

Costs involved: The service is free.

It may take up to 30 days for applications to be processed.

School are required by law to keep records of school attendance and provide such records to the department. Should any learners be kept from school without a valid reason or the necessary consent from the HOD the effect would be that they would be deregistered as a learner of the school after being absent for 10 consecutive schooldays. Should a learner be registered for home schooling he/she will also be deregistered as a learner of the school. The practical effect of this is as follows:

1. Parents must re-apply for admission to school. It might be that there is not enough space in the school or specific grade when the parent applies for admission to the school.
2. Parents will have to supply a report card or formal certificate in confirmation of completion of the appropriate schooling by the learner when they apply for admission to school. If parents did not register with a curriculum provider for purposes of home education, such certificate will not be available.
3. Despite the availability of a report card or formal certificate the school shall have the right to conduct an assessment to determine as to whether the learner has the necessary skills and knowledge to continue with a specific grade of schooling. It is therefore not a given that the learner will be able to continue schooling with his/her peers.

As the Governing Body we would like to assure parents that all reasonable measures have been implemented and will be undertaken to ensure the safety of learners at school and that we always have the best interest of all parents and learners at heart.

We appreciate your cooperation in these trying times.

Kind regards and stay safe

**Mr DJ Breet**

**Principal**