The Green School Way

We educate for sustainability through community-integrated, entrepreneurial learning, in a natural environment. Our holistic, student-guided approach inspires and empowers us to be green leaders. This is the Green School Way.

“Green School is a place where the wonder of learning, inspiration and joy are at the heart of everything we do. Each child is loved and valued as an individual. It is a place where creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship flourish. Welcome to a school that inspires and equips its students and community to thrive with purpose, now and in the future.

“Our approach to teaching is built around 21st century learning skills. Beyond the taught curriculum, children will learn to be critical thinkers, to be adaptable and innovative, guided in their decisions by a clear sense of purpose. We believe in rigour and discipline, but those qualities should best grow within a child, rather than be imposed. As we prepare our children to succeed in a rapidly changing world, we seek to instil in them strong values that will enable them to be a force for good.

“Green School is a school that equips its students to embrace the joys and challenges of our complex world. Please come and meet us and see for yourself what this extraordinary school has to offer.”

Andy Wood
Head of Green School South Africa
Our school is situated close to Cape Town in the verdant Paarl-Franschhoek Valley. Surrounded by majestic mountains, this area is celebrated for its rich plant life and natural beauty.

Our campus is on 8 hectares of land, where indigenous and vegetable gardens, orchards and grain fields serve as an outdoor extension of our classrooms.

These gardens not only teach us about maths and chemistry, but re-establish the tie between us as humans and our nourishment, and connect the school community to the land.

Our campus is designed to world-class sustainability standards and includes solar power as our renewable energy resource and, a strong focus on water, with climate-specific water management systems that treat, infiltrate and reuse all water resources on site.

Our biophilic design aims to contribute to our school community’s sense of place, delighting and inspiring students and visitors for generations to come.

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**Message from our founders**

We could not have imagined, when we set off for a sojourn at Green School Bali in 2017, what an extraordinary experience we would have and how profoundly it would change our understanding of education.

We saw a major change in our children. They went to school with joy every morning and were excited on Sunday evenings that they would return. In the afternoons, we could not get them to leave school, because they were so intent on sharing with us the excitement of their day. They loved the extent to which art, music, and drama were part of their normal week, they loved the opportunity to perform in front of the school every week, and they felt that learning was mostly play. In talking with the school’s educators, we realized just how much thought, research, and passion went into curriculum design, the meticulous and rigorous development of weekly and daily programmes, and also the flexibility with which the educators adjusted to each child’s level in each subject.

The low student-teacher ratio made an enormous impact on how individualized the learning experience could be, and how much time each child had to express their thoughts, contribute to discussions and raise their questions. We believe that this contributed significantly to the level of the children’s engagement in class and the extent to which they took ownership for their learning and enjoyed the journey.

We were also amazed at how the architecture of a campus affects everyone’s perspective of what is possible, and the sense of freedom and creativity that comes from such wall-less structures. Watching the leaves blow in the breeze, listening to the river in the background and seeing the natural light in classrooms created a unique and memorable sense of place.

We are so excited to bring this concept home and to create a school filled with joy, teaching 21st century skills right here in our valley – a school that strengthens identity, sense of community and embeds sustainability in everything it does.

We invite you to join us, as learners, parents, educators, or community members to share in the excitement and magic of building Green School South Africa.

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**Location**

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The world our children will inherit is changing faster than at any time in history. For our children to prosper and humankind to flourish, we need a new kind of education, one that fosters 21st century skills.

Green School South Africa’s beautiful architecture kindles the imagination and stimulates innovation and creative design. Our strong community fosters collaboration and shared values. Our social enterprises encourage an entrepreneurial spirit. Our values-based approach inspires youth to pursue their passions and make a difference, now.

By design and intent, Green School is a dynamic place – always changing, growing, and learning. While our learning programme has solid foundations that foster development of the Green School skills, we will continue to evolve and embrace research-based, progressive learning principles, designed to nurture the qualities and competencies that will advance us towards a sustainable future.
The following behaviours form the backbone for all that we teach. We learn “green” because this represents our commitment to growth in ourselves, our students, our community and our world. These skills refer directly to the Green School learning and living ambitions, and reflect our school’s vision to “Thrive with Purpose.”

**Green School skills**

**Think creatively**
Be original, be imaginative.
- Find divergent thinking strategies, explore creative (outside the box) solutions to problems.
- Work to your skills and strengths — thinking and idea space, differentiated assignments
- Be curious and inquire — ask great questions.

**Activate**
Feel empowered and empower others. Take action. Make a difference.
- Experience fully, put knowledge to action, and be a leader
- Build trust and empower others to meet goals
- Model positive behaviour
- Inspire others to action by taking a stand, taking initiative, taking risks and taking responsibility.

**Adapt**
Bend like bamboo
- Change, being receptive and adaptive to change
- Deal positively with unpredictable circumstances or setbacks
- Accept and learn from failure. Adjust processes to meet goals.

**Think critically**
Dig deeper, ask why, make connections.
- Exercise scepticism, question and evaluate credibility and authority
- Test assumptions
- Analyse and evaluate evidence, data and arguments.

**Collaborate**
Confident alone, stronger together. Find your way.
- Collaborate and be part of a team (even if that requires working alone at times)
- Find your role and share responsibility for goals
- Consider multiple perspectives.

**Be aware**
Look within, figure yourself out.
- Understand how you learn best and sustain a passion for lifelong learning
- Be aware of yourself, your emotions on others and of your personal responsibility for emotional regulation
- Be aware of yourself and your personal impact on the community, both locally and globally
- Be mindful and practice mindfulness.

**Communicate**
Process, organise, and coherently express ideas
- Listen actively
- Consider purpose, audience and style
- Interpret and express ideas graphically, verbally and numerically.

**Solve problems**
Figure it out, identify problems and go for solutions.
- Apply logic and innovation to investigations and scenarios
- Set goals, keep focus, develop and implement process
- Plan, prioritise and manage time and logistics.

**Think in systems**
Step back and see the whole picture
- See whole systems as more than a collection of parts
- Identify how human and natural systems interact and impact one another
- Employ compass tools and activities.

**Global network**

Green School South Africa marks the next step in the global Green School movement. Inspired by their children’s wonderful experience at Green School Bali, parents are establishing Green Schools in New Zealand and now South Africa. This global network helps us leverage the best practices in education from different parts of the world.

For students, educators, and administrators, this network also allows transitions between the different international schools that are part of the Green School movement. Being a part of this global initiative also allows students to leverage the global brand recognition across multiple avenues including universities, work opportunities, and research centres worldwide.
As a school, we subscribe to a set of values – iRESPECT. These are the values of integrity, responsibility, equality, sustainability, peace, empathy, community and trust. At all times, we should be teaching and modelling these values and supporting our students in doing the same. We encourage all teachers to honour and recognise these values in our students with ongoing dialogue, discussions and reinforcement.

**Integrity** – being honest and ethical with thoughts and actions.

**Responsibility** – being accountable for thoughts, actions and deeds.

**Equality** – respecting everyone as an equal and as an individual.

**Sustainability** – ensuring that your own body and surroundings are cared for, so they are clean and healthy for as long as possible.

**Peace** – contributing to a state of harmony.

**Empathy** – understanding and caring for the feelings of others.

**Community** – being part of a group seeking common goals and taking care of one another.

**Trust** – building and maintaining strong relationships with one another, the school and the environment.

Green School students are immersed in a rich culture and community. Our school is a tolerant, respectful and inclusive place where we value diversity, are eager to learn and appreciate the culture and values of all the sectors of our South African and international communities. Lessons are taught in both English and Afrikaans, (the languages spoken in the communities around our school) and opportunities to learn other languages are provided in our music and art classes and after-school activities. Green School is connected deeply to our local community. We are committed to mutual respect, shared learning, friendship and service.
Learning principles and curriculum

The Green School South Africa curriculum is based on the international Green School curriculum, and exceeds the requirements of the South African curriculum. The international Green School curriculum was based on the United Kingdom National Curriculum and other highly respected international curricula such as that of New Zealand and Singapore.

Our curriculum is rigorous and relevant, because we strive to help our students understand the value of what they learn.

Learning programme

Green School is committed to a natural, holistic and student-centered learning experience that empowers and inspires our students to be creative, innovative change-makers. We educate young leaders in global citizenship. We champion a new model of learning that connects the timeless lessons from nature to a relevant and effective preparation for a fast-changing future. The holistic learning at Green School focuses on the four intelligences, ‘The Big Four’—the physical, emotional, intellectual and expressive development of the child.

The pedagogy used in Green School is the Three Frames of Learning

1. Thematic Classes
   Cross-disciplinary learning around a theme

2. Proficiency Classes
   Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities and Foreign Languages

3. Experiential Classes
   Enterprise, Environmental Studies, Arts, Health and Well-being, and our Enrichment Programme and courses in the classroom

This defines how we deliver the content of our courses in the classroom and beyond. This scaffold is designed to provide a consistent, relevant, well-rounded and comprehensive learning experience, and forms the basis of the Green School curriculum and approach to learning.
Our love for the natural world is evident at every stage of our students’ learning journey, from our youngest members getting their hands in the earth, to our older students taking their first-year university courses in environmental science while still at high school.

Learning for sustainability

Our teachers have a passion for education and the natural world. They have travelled widely and bring a global perspective to the classroom, which is a product of their love of learning, adventure and exploration. Our teachers are empowered to bring life, within the overarching curriculum, their talent, creativity and commitment to sustainability.

Teachers

Our foundational teachers are proficient in both English and Afrikaans, to ensure that the curriculum is delivered in both languages. Green School teachers are highly qualified and we look for people who have done interesting things, such as social, humanitarian or environmental volunteering. Among them will be film-makers, entrepreneurs, scientists, authors, designers, poets and more.

“Here at Green School, it is more of a friendly relationship between you and the teacher. Teachers also give you the ability to go and explore and experiment with what you want to work with. If you are super-interested in something, you can explore that, open it up and discover more”.

Grade 9 Student, Green School Bali
Early Years

Early Years classes start in the year students turn four, and proceed to Reception.

Green School’s Early Years programme offers a child-centric education built around a developmentally appropriate version of the Three Frame Day (thematic, proficiency, experiential). The play-based programme sparks children’s natural curiosity and instills the joy of learning through singing, dancing, art, storytelling, cultural celebrations, green studies and excursions around our beautiful campus. This is interspersed with a gentle integration of proficiencies such as numbers and letters in a very holistic, play-based way. There is a large emphasis in our Early Years programme on instilling values of kindness, love and mutual respect for one another and our planet. The programme for all classes is built around six areas of learning:

1. physical development (gross motor and fine motor)
2. socio-emotional
3. language development
4. colours, shapes and number
5. cognitive
6. creative expression

Nuturing and inspiring

Grades 1 – 5

In the primary years, our school architecture inspires students to connect with the environment, chase adventure and pursue their passions. It’s a time for fun, laughter, exploration, and inquiry, while building relationships, expressing creativity, and getting dirty!

Primary students will strive to master core competencies in mathematics and literacy in a highly supportive learning environment. We are passionate about instilling a love of reading and writing and ensuring that our students have sound mathematical, scientific and technological skills. Student-guided, hands-on projects promote entrepreneurial thinking, environmental education, practical skills, and the arts while fostering students to become effective collaborators and communicators, ethical decision makers and willing risk takers.
The Middle School programme gives students greater freedom and responsibility to build their own learning programme. Students have a significant amount of choice, while maintaining a firm grounding in foundational subjects.

Throughout the intermediate years, we focus on developing students’ critical thinking skills — to question, challenge and seek to discover answers and solutions for themselves.

The programme is structured and delivered in a way that leverages the natural desire of this age group to become independent thinkers, to work with friends and peers and to discover rather than to be told. This truly unique and progressive programme retains an absolute focus on the social and emotional development of children at this exciting and important age and stage.

Middle School uses the three principles of learning; thematic, proficiency and experiential, while at the same time introducing highly integrated units in our proficiency frame, to prepare them for the High School subject elective process.
Our High School programme emphasises empowering students to make their own choices, guided by parents and teachers. We believe in honouring each student to be their best self. Most importantly, we aim to instill in our students a love of learning as a passionate pursuit in and of itself.

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The aim of our green studies curriculum is to:

- Nurture respect for the natural world;
- Heighten students’ environmental awareness and promote stewardship;
- Develop deep ecological values;
- Understand and practice permaculture as the harmonious integration of land and people to provide food, shelter and energy in a sustainable way;
- Build awareness of and engagement with the many readily-accessible resources on our campus, including but not limited to food gardens, aquatic systems, animal husbandry and sustainable and renewable building materials;
- Understand sustainability and systems as a web of relationships interacting with communities – human and non-human – in ways that enable them to live and develop according to their natures;
- Foster a love for learning about themselves, one another and the wider world in ways that are respectful, have depth of understanding, and compassionate coexistence, and
- Instill pride, responsibility and co-operation among students as lifelong learners and future leaders in the world.

Green studies and environmental science

Our homegrown, comprehensive green studies curriculum evolves from ecology to sustainability, while connecting students to our local geographic and cultural context. A hands-on approach allows students to ‘get their hands dirty’ and ‘get mud between their toes’ while reinforcing the essential skills of reading, writing, maths and science.

Entrepreneurial learning

At Green School, enterprise and entrepreneurship are not subjects—they are ways of being and doing. They are central to educating for a sustainable world. By developing these skills, habits, and attitudes, students own their learning and have impact on the world. Students practice entrepreneurial skills on a regular basis—as questioners, thinkers, learners from failure and active learners.

It starts with the youngest students forming personal characteristics, and builds throughout Middle and High School, where our advanced and confident learners make a real impact on the world. In the Primary School, students immerse themselves in Green Enterprise Projects which take many and varied forms.

The skills of systems-thinking, collaboration and creative problem-solving are brought to life through activities that may range from establishing a business such as jewellery making, to taking on real challenges such as designing new composting systems.
Our future-focused, environmentally grounded curriculum encourages young people to address the challenges that face the world today, and empowers them to make our planet sustainable. We nurture an ethical, creative and entrepreneurial mindset that is needed to create a positive future for our planet. Our love for the natural world is evident at every stage of the learning journey, both inside and outside the classroom.

With our sister school in Bali named the “Greenest School on Earth”, we leverage best practices as we build a school community that’s committed to living sustainably. While others may say that our approach is visionary, we believe it is, in fact, necessary.

**Well-being**

If our aim is to become community members making our world sustainable, it is imperative that we start with ourselves. How students feel about themselves and their relationships with others directly affects their ability to learn and grow. Our physical, mental and social/emotional well-being influences everything we do.

At Green School, our well-being curriculum acknowledges that students learn best when they are joyous, mindful, active and aware.

All aspects of Green School’s well-being programme (physical well-being, social and emotional well-being, mindfulness, and relationship education) are structured into three strands that allow students to develop the skills and knowledge to be the stewards of their own health and growth.

These three strands are: connection to myself, connection to others and connection to society.
The Green School experience is marked by milestones, rites of passages and learning ‘artifacts’. These are initiatives developed to celebrate and challenge key stages of a child’s development.

Here are just a few examples:

**My Footprints**
My Footprints is a special capstone experience for the primary school years. The students who choose a project they are passionate about, are mentored as they develop it, and finally showcase and present the outcome to the community. The students are inspired by the Grade 8 Quest and Grade 12 Green Stone projects.

**Quest**
The Grade 8 Quest project challenges students to identify one of their passions and turn it into a project with an aspect of environmental or societal sustainability. This year-long programme has become a rite of passage at Green School and can be a life-changing experience for children as they come to the end of their intermediate journey. The project culminates in a TED-style presentation, which is filmed and published, and helps prepare our students for success in their High School Green Stone presentations and beyond.

**Green Stone**
The Green Stone project is the High School capstone experience in Grade 12. It gives students the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of deep research and presentation skills, and offers an extended period of focus on individual interests in an academic framework. It is designed and implemented entirely by the students and is based on their passions and interests. The final part of the project is a 13-minute presentation, in the spirit of a TED talk, which is filmed and published by the school.

**After-school activities**
Green School offers a range of sporting, musical, cultural, artistic and recreational activities after school. The programme changes from term to term and offers something for all age groups.
Parents and community

Green School is truly a whole-family experience. The collective energy of, passion, creativity, skills, knowledge and cultural diversity of our local neighbours inevitably turns out to be remarkable.

We are gifted with constant exposure to new ways of learning and going about life, which nourish us, broaden our perspectives and feeds our global intelligence.

Our school is a place for exploration, learning, contribution and joy. The community is connected locally and globally.

Green School Parent Association (GSPA)

Green School will have an active and vibrant parent association. The mission of the association is: ‘To inform, inspire and energise parent participation in a manner that sustains the health and vitality of Green School and its community.’

The GSPA strives to ‘hold the heart’ of the school, understanding that a healthy, inspired and engaged parent community represents a vital asset to Green School. Green School parents are authentic partners in the education of their children and play an active role in the development of the educational environment, philosophy and policies of Green School.

In partnership with the school, the association will offer parents and community members a rich programme of activities. From informal get-togethers to workshops on topics of interest, there is something for everyone. Regular meetings provide parents with an opportunity to give ideas and suggestions and to enter into a dialogue with the school on the learning programme and life on campus.

All parents coming to Green School are expected to contribute some service via The Parent Participation Programme. Large or small voluntary contributions by parents will be a part of the school’s culture and will remain a strong element as Green School develops.

“The most remarkable thing at Green School is the love that’s been invested by the families, the faculty and especially the kids. There’s so much energy and talent.”
Michael Franti, Green School Bali parent
Student support
Green School prides itself on personalising learning for our students.

We welcome students with a vast range of unique talents, skills and challenges. Our goal is to embrace each child, honour their unique contributions to our special learning community, and nurture their development in order to optimise their potential. Although we cannot necessarily cater for every need, our student support team offers a depth and breadth of expertise and experience.

During the enrolment process, we seek to understand each child’s particular needs and assess the school’s ability to support these, given the resources and expertise available within the school.

Enrolment process
The first step is to make an inquiry or initial application through our website at www.greenschoolssa.co.za

By starting the process, you are not committed to continue with your enrolment. A child’s enrolment is a mutual decision-making process between families and the school. As places within classes fill quickly, we recommend you submit an initial application so that we can support you, well in advance, with all the information and advice you may need before making the final decision.

Year placement
The starting point for determining year placement is the child’s date of birth and the age they will be on January 1st in the year they are applying to enrol. This gives us a good initial indication of the right year level and is the main guiding element in determining year placement. We take other factors into account, including the school system the child may be coming from, along with social and emotional factors and learning needs. Green School reserves the right to make the final decision on a student’s year placement.

Minimum enrolment period
The minimum enrolment period is generally one year (four terms), which helps us to maintain a harmonious community and allows children to experience all Green School has to offer. On occasion, semester enrolments may be accommodated, where there is space within a class. Enrolment intakes take place in most classes at the beginning of the school year (January) or the beginning of term three (July).

Academic year
The school year runs from January to December and is divided into four terms. Term one is January to March, term two is April to June, term three is July to September and term four is October to December.

School uniform
Green School does not have a school uniform; we would love each child to express their individuality. We do have a dress code, which guides us in choosing clothing that is comfortable and appropriate for the seasonal climate.
Technology and electronic devices

All Middle and High School students are required to be equipped with a laptop computer. A smartphone is not suitable for writing essays, accessing our online learning platform or analysing data. Primary students have access to computers as part of the learning programme. The school has a policy restricting access to individual electronic devices within Primary School, and restrictions around phone use for Intermediate and High School.

Food at Green School

At the heart of the school is a kitchen. Vegetables grown and harvested on the school grounds by the students are an integral part of the menu. Students participate in the cooking, making a farm-to-fork experience part of education. Lunch is available daily at a nominal fee.

Approach to homework

We acknowledge the potential value of students working at home on tasks which have not been completed during the day or, for older students, assignments. We know that time to rest, play and spend time together as a family is important too. We aim to strike a balance and have homework guidelines for different age groups and learning stages.

Visiting Green School

Admissions tours and interviews are available on school days to families with an application in process for the upcoming school year. Please book an admissions tour and interview via admissions@greenschoolsa.co.za

Prospective students, with an application in process, may be able to join a class for a part or full trial day, subject to scheduling. Trial days attract an additional cost.

General tours are also available for those interested in Green School but not wishing to submit an application for enrolment. Please book a general tour via the Green School website.

New student enrolment and tuition fees

Green School welcomes inquiries and applications for enrolment from all corners of the globe. Please refer to the information below to understand the total cost of enrolment and tuition. Enrolments are confirmed only after an offer is made, accepted and the refundable deposit paid.

Fee structure for 2021:

Application fee:
We charge an application fee of R1000 per family. This fee is to process your application and does not guarantee acceptance in the school.

Refundable deposit:
Upon being accepted by the school, you will be required to pay a refundable deposit of R10,000 per learner. These funds are there to secure your seat and will be refunded when the learner leaves school.

2021 Enrolment Fees

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Discounts

Sibling discount
The eldest sibling pays standard fees, the second sibling will receive a 5% discount and further siblings will receive 10% discount each. We will open in January 2021 for Early Years to Grade 8, adding an extra class annually until we provide classes for all the years of High School. This is subject to us obtaining relevant municipal and education department approvals.
**Individual and optional costs**

Other individual costs may include a laptop computer for all Middle and High school students and a sports uniform. Most after-school activities, other than those provided by outside teachers, are free of charge. Where a student chooses to take exams outside of the curriculum, an additional cost may be incurred.

Some optional, experiential outward-bound programmes on offer within Middle and High school may attract an additional cost. In the case that particular student support is required, an additional fee may be applicable.

**Student support**

Student support services are available to children who need some extra learning or social/emotional support. The school offers general and some specialised support within the regular programme. Where a child is assessed as requiring support beyond the level of resources available, or more specialised assistance, a specialist (e.g., a speech and language or behavioural therapist) may be required, and this will be for the parents’ cost.

**Enrolment terms and conditions**

These are outlined in the enrolment contract. Our admissions team will outline the terms and conditions to you.
Individual and optional costs

Other individual costs may include a laptop computer for all Middle and High school students and a sports uniform. Most after-school activities, other than those provided by outside teachers, are free of charge. Where a student chooses to take exams outside of the curriculum, an additional cost may be incurred.

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For more information please visit us at
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