

FEEDBACK REPORT 2023 SCHOOLS



OISESA

Office of Independent
Schools Evaluations
Southern Africa

THE 2023 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME

1.1 Introduction

The OISESA offices opened in May 2022, and the organisation has now been operating for 20 months. The pilot programme in 2022 involved 55 schools, and the 2023 programme expanded to cover 151 quality assurance school visits.

Whilst the pilot programme in 2022 focused primarily on the relevance and efficacy of the globally aligned standards & indicators and sought to establish which types of evidence best enable authentic and reliable data collection, this year marked the introduction of the stakeholder surveys and a refining and strengthening of the quality assurance process. For example, based on feedback from the pilot schools, the onsite visits were extended from two to three days to allow more time, which proved invaluable.

Many of the 151 participating schools were volunteers, whilst others were included from ISASA's list of schools due for a quality assurance visit. A full list of schools is provided on page 7.

On completion of the process, schools are awarded a Quality Assurance Certificate and may display the OISESA logo on their website and other publications.

1.2 Feedback & Revisions

OISESA has undertaken to revise and strengthen the quality assurance programme on an ongoing basis, based on feedback from mentors and from participating schools, to ensure the model remains relevant in the constantly changing landscape of education in Southern Africa.

Online meetings were held with mentors throughout the year to continue revising processes and documents, to build collaborative resources, and to develop solutions to questions asked by schools.

The general *Standards & Indicators* were revised and sent to all schools in November, for comment. ECD and LSEN *Standards and Indicators* have also been revised to align with the general standards where appropriate.

Participating schools were asked to share feedback in a post-visit survey. Feedback was received from 37 of the participating schools. A busy year-end may well have contributed to the low response rate. The feedback received was most helpful and is summarised in Section 2.

1.3 Refining the Model

- ✓ Revisions to the [Standards & Indicators 2024](#) include:
 - The reordering of several of the standards and moving indicators into sections where they are more appropriate. Where necessary, indicators have been reworded.
 - Definitions have been provided for clarity around the difference between Student Well-Being and Safeguarding.
 - The Education Programme divisions have been reviewed, and the categories refined, including creating a separate section for the Co-Curricular Programme.
 - More detail has been added to the Boarding Programme, to enable a more in-depth interrogation of this standard.
- ✓ The [Guidelines for Schools 2024](#) have been revised extensively and include much greater detail.
- ✓ The survey guidelines have been incorporated into the general guidelines.
- ✓ Stakeholder surveys have been revised to accommodate the changes to the ***Standards & Indicators***.
- ✓ The school self-study template has been revised, and formatting glitches resolved.
- ✓ Editing and finalising the detailed reports has proved challenging for the number of schools visited. We have employed a part-time Senior Editor, Wendy Plumbley, to help us to clear the 2023 backlog. We hope to finalise the 2023 reports by the end of February and improve times going forward.
- ✓ Schools may start working on the recommendations in the interim, just not publish the reports as final.
- ✓ In addition, we have increased mentor capacity for 2024, and five new mentors join the team: Mike Greeff, Hester Hill, Merritt Watson, Dave Wiggett and Gillian Boltman. Hester will work primarily with dual medium and Afrikaans schools.
- ✓ The surveys have also been translated into Afrikaans.

The process in general worked well for us. The surveys gave us an added insight and corroborated our SWOT analysis from the beginning of 2023. It has also showed the distance travelled since our major review based on surveys and interviews the school undertook at the end of 2021. It added to our understanding of where we are taking our school to as we build and renew post-covid.

Crossroads

2. SUMMARY OF SURVEY FEEDBACK

The survey rating scale was from 1 – 5, with 5 being the highest rating.

Recommendations for improvement focus more on general trends than on individual comments. Several of these recommendations have already been implemented for the 2024 schools.

Section 1

- How would you rate the notification process from ISASA?

Average rating 4.5.

- How would you rate the notification process from OISESA, including the initial contact from the mentors?

Average rating 4.7.

- How would you rate the online training session with the mentors?

Average rating 4.4.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- ✓ Consider splitting the online training into two sessions – one early on in the process, and one two weeks before the visit for further clarification.
- ✓ Training must be done as early as possible.
- ✓ Ensure good connectivity for the online training sessions. (One school requested face-to-face training, but this is unfortunately not feasible, particularly for the outlying schools.)
- ✓ Continue providing recordings of the online meeting and copies of the PowerPoint training slides.
- ✓ Ensure schools understand the amount of work involved and encourage them to share the load with the quality assurance team.
- ✓ Ensure there is good understanding of the different indicators during the online training.
- ✓ Provide clarity around deferments and extensions.¹

Our visit was a wonderful journey for our school. The mentors were wonderful to work with. Their kindness was greatly appreciated.

St Benedict School, KZN

¹ ISASA grants a six-month deferment in the case of a new head being appointed. Other deferments need to be discussed with Wayne Stuurman at ISASA.

Section 2

- How would you rate the use of stakeholder surveys?

Average rating 3.9.

- How did you find working with the OISESA *Standards & Indicators*?

Average rating 4.1.

- How would you rate your experience of the self-study process?

Average rating 4.4.

- How would you rate the usefulness of the guidelines for schools?

Average rating 4.4.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Surveys

- ✓ Schools need to build collective understanding of the survey process before sharing them with stakeholders and send out regular reminders to parents to increase the response rate for surveys.
- ✓ Draw up surveys for administrative and support staff.
- ✓ Provide more clarity about which survey questions link to particular standards.
- ✓ Consider increasing the number of comments to allow for more nuanced feedback.
- ✓ Review the effectiveness of the survey summary table in the self-study report.

This was a very positive experience for our school and the expected anxiety of an evaluation was almost non-existent due to the way it was communicated and facilitated.

Treverton College

Section 3

- ✓ How would you rate the onsite school visit?

Average rating 4.7.

- ✓ How would you rate your experience of working with the OISESA mentors?

Average rating 4.7.

- ✓ How would you rate the recommendations for improvement suggested by the OISESA mentors?

Average rating 4.3.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- ✓ Consider using the same mentors for schools in the three-year interim report and beyond, to see what has been implemented.
- ✓ Where possible, try to match the mentors' experience with the phase being evaluated, for example in the ECD sector.
- ✓ Mentors should investigate and verify points raised in the surveys and the focus groups, before including them in the final report.
- ✓ Schools must have sight of the mentor report before it is finalized.
- ✓ Recommendations must have relevance for that particular school, rather than being more general.
- ✓ Maintain a primary focus on the education programme, and on teaching and learning throughout the evaluation as this is the core business of schools.

We found the mentors to be very on point. Their experience as heads gave them amazing insight into our school and this was beneficial when speaking to them in our sessions.

Hope Schools

Contact us via email: info@oisesa.org

Visit our website to download resources: www.oisesa.org

2023 SCHOOLS

- ✓ Alpha & Omega (High School)
- ✓ Alpha & Omega (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ Alpha & Omega (Primary)
- ✓ Assumption Convent (Baby Steps)
- ✓ Assumption Convent (College)
- ✓ Assumption Convent (Primary)
- ✓ Bellavista
- ✓ Big Bay Academy (Junior Campus)
- ✓ Big Bay Academy (Senior Campus)
- ✓ Bishops (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ Bishops College
- ✓ Bishops Preparatory
- ✓ Bryandale Pre-Primary
- ✓ Bryanston United Nursery School
- ✓ Cedar House (High School)
- ✓ Cedar House (Preparatory)
- ✓ Clifton School (College)
- ✓ Clifton School (Preparatory)
- ✓ Clifton School (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ Cowie's Hill Pre-Primary School
- ✓ Crossroads School
- ✓ Cygnet Preparatory School
- ✓ Dainfern College (Junior Preparatory)
- ✓ Dainfern College (Senior Preparatory)
- ✓ Dainfern College (High School)
- ✓ Edmund Rice (High School)
- ✓ Edmund Rice (Junior School)
- ✓ Faithway College (Primary)
- ✓ Faithway College (Secondary)
- ✓ Grace College
- ✓ Grantley College
- ✓ Grayston Preparatory School (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ Grayston Preparatory School
- ✓ Greyton House Village School
- ✓ Growing Minds Primary School
- ✓ H2 Primary
- ✓ Helpmekaar College
- ✓ Herschel Girls School (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ Herschel Girls School (Primary)
- ✓ Herschel Girls School (Secondary)
- ✓ Holy Family College Durban (High School)
- ✓ Holy Family College Durban (Primary)
- ✓ Hope College
- ✓ Hope Preparatory School
- ✓ Japari
- ✓ Joyhouse Private School
- ✓ Kainon School
- ✓ King David Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School
- ✓ King David Rosabelle Klein Nursery School
- ✓ King David Victory Park (College)
- ✓ King David Victory Park (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ King David Victory Park (Primary)
- ✓ Leeuwenhof Akademie (College)
- ✓ Leeuwenhof Akademie (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ Leeuwenhof Akademie (Primary)
- ✓ Let Them Grow
- ✓ Little Darlings Primary School
- ✓ Magut Private School
- ✓ Mahonisi Learning Centre (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ Mahonisi Learning Centre (Primary)
- ✓ Mahonisi Learning Centre (Secondary)
- ✓ Maria Montessori (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ Maria Montessori (Primary)
- ✓ Midstream College (High School)
- ✓ Midstream College (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ Midstream College (Primary School)
- ✓ Midstream Midlands (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ Midstream Ridge (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ Midstream Ridge (Primary)
- ✓ Newberry House (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ Newberry House (Primary)
- ✓ Newberry House (Secondary)
- ✓ Northwest Christian School (ECD)
- ✓ Northwest Christian School (Preparatory)
- ✓ PEPPS Ga-Ledwaba (ECD)
- ✓ PEPPS Ga-Ledwaba (Preparatory)

- ✓ PEPPS Mokopane (College)
- ✓ PEPPS Mokopane (Preparatory)
- ✓ PEPPS Mokopane (Pre-School)
- ✓ PEPPS Polokwane (ECD)
- ✓ PEPPS Polokwane (Preparatory)
- ✓ PEPPS Polokwane (College)
- ✓ Posh Kidz Academy
- ✓ Roedean (SA) (Senior Preparatory)
- ✓ Roedean (SA) (Junior Preparatory)
- ✓ Roedean (SA) (Senior School)
- ✓ Ruens Kollege
- ✓ Sacred Heart College (Preparatory)
- ✓ Sacred Heart College (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ Sacred Heart College (Secondary)
- ✓ Sifundzani High School
- ✓ Sifundzani Primary School
- ✓ Somerset West Private School
- ✓ South African Jockey Academy
- ✓ St Andrews' School for Girls (High School)
- ✓ St Andrew's School for Girls (Preschool)
- ✓ St Andrew's School for Girls (Primary)
- ✓ St Anne's Diocesan College
- ✓ St Benedict School (High School)
- ✓ St Benedict School (Primary)
- ✓ St Catherine's School (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ St Catherine's School (Primary)
- ✓ St Catherine's School (Secondary)
- ✓ St Dominic's College (High School)
- ✓ St Dominic's College (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ St Dominic's College (Senior Primary)
- ✓ St Joseph's Marist College (Primary)
- ✓ St Joseph's Marist College (Secondary)
- ✓ St Mary's DSG (Pretoria) (College)
- ✓ St Mary's DSG (Pretoria) (Preparatory)
- ✓ St Monica's Diocesan School (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ St Monica's Diocesan School (Primary)
- ✓ St Monica's Diocesan School (Secondary)
- ✓ St Paul's College Windhoek (Primary)
- ✓ St Paul's College Windhoek (Secondary) (
- ✓ St Paulus Pre-Primary School
- ✓ St Paulus Primary School
- ✓ St Peter's College
- ✓ St Thomas Aquinas School (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ St Thomas Aquinas School (Primary)
- ✓ St Thomas Aquinas School (Secondary)
- ✓ The King's College and Preparatory School (College)
- ✓ The King's College and Preparatory School (Preparatory)
- ✓ The King's College and Preparatory School (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ The Ridge School (Junior Preparatory)
- ✓ The Ridge School (Senior Preparatory)
- ✓ Treverton College
- ✓ Treverton Preparatory School
- ✓ Treverton Preparatory School (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ Umtata Christian School (Pre-Preparatory)
- ✓ Umtata Christian School (Primary)
- ✓ Umtata Christian School (Secondary)
- ✓ Vuleka Assisted Learning Centre
- ✓ Vuleka School (St Joseph's)
- ✓ Vuleka School (St Mark's)
- ✓ Vuleka School (St Martin's Jellicoe)
- ✓ Vuleka School (St Martin's I)
- ✓ Vuleka School (St Michael's)
- ✓ Waterford
- ✓ Westbury Preparatory School
- ✓ Western Province Preparatory School
- ✓ Western Province Preparatory School (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ Woodlands International College (Junior College)
- ✓ Woodlands International College (Pre-Primary)
- ✓ Woodlands International College (High School)
- ✓ Woodridge College
- ✓ Woodridge Preparatory
- ✓ Woodridge Pre-Primary School