

## For the attention of the Board Chair

Greetings,

### **Re: OISESA Quality Assurance School Visit 2026**

Ahead of our visit to your school, I am reaching out to provide an overview of what the OISESA quality assurance process involves and the benefits it brings to schools.

The Office of Independent Schools Evaluations, Southern Africa ([OISESA](#)) was established in 2022 to ensure that independent schools in Southern Africa maintain high standards of education and continuously strive to improve their educational programme as they navigate the changing landscape of education. All [ISASA](#) member schools are required to undertake the process once every six years. Schools are notified by ISASA at least six months in advance of the visit.

The process involves several key components:

- **The Self-Study:** Schools are encouraged to examine the relevance of their mission and values by using the [Standards & Indicators](#) to ask important educational questions and review their current practice. A template and guidelines are provided to assist the Quality Assurance Team [here](#). This self-evaluation encourages schools to affirm and celebrate their strengths while identifying areas of vulnerability.
- **The Surveys:** Stakeholder surveys are sent to all board members, staff, administrative staff, students, and parents at least six weeks ahead of the school visit. Additional surveys are provided for schools with boarding facilities. The data collected from these surveys is processed by OISESA and shared with the head, giving the school valuable feedback to incorporate into the self-study and improvement plan.
- **The Onsite Visit:** One or more of OISESA's experienced [mentors](#) visit the school for a period of three days to observe the school's operations, to interact with the head, the

board, staff, parents, and students, and to provide an external perspective on the school's performance and areas for improvement.

- **Feedback and Reporting:** After the visit, the school submits a final self-study report, and the mentor submits an independent report on their findings. This report includes commendations for areas of excellence and recommendations for areas that need improvement. Both reports are shared with ISASA once the process is complete.

The benefits of participating in the OISESA quality assurance process are numerous. It demonstrates the school's willingness to be held professionally accountable, enhancing its credibility with stakeholders and with the wider community. The self-study promotes strategic thinking and helps schools develop actionable plans for continuous improvement. In addition, it encourages collaboration and engagement among staff, students, and the broader school community, fostering a culture of learning and growth.

In conclusion, the OISESA quality assurance process is a valuable undertaking that brings significant long-term strategic benefits to schools.

Kind regards

*Mlong*

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