OAKHILL

THE JOY OF LEARNING

Oakhill School Admissions Pack 2027

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ieb assessment matters

ISASA
Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa
Quality Values Diversity

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF PREP AND COLLEGE

Whole child education happens in the broadest sense of the word at Oakhill and this involves much more than the excellent academic standards we maintain. From Grade 000 to Grade 12 we strive to ignite the imaginations of our pupils by encouraging them to explore and discover, question and create – to experience the joy of learning. It is a unique journey for each child towards developing identity and reaching their potential. We believe that every child has the ability to learn but not necessarily in the same way as the next one. This is why educators at Oakhill are encouraged to teach the way their pupils learn, rather than expecting them to learn the way we teach. This does not mean that the process is unstructured – on the contrary. It means that we as educators are constantly reflecting on our pedagogy and questioning the content of the curriculum we offer. We are privileged to enjoy a technology rich school environment which offers the opportunity for innovative teaching and learning.

Outside the classroom, we have an educational agenda that reaches far beyond the obsession with winning that is too often prevalent in schools nowadays. We play to win, but not at all cost, and strive for excellence but not perfection. We encourage our pupils to have a balanced extra mural involvement which include sport and the arts and we pride ourselves in the fact that the fields and the stages at Oakhill are equally vibrant spaces. Here our pupils learn about teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership, perseverance, resilience and how to handle victory, defeat, applause and disappointment in an appropriate way.

We want to inspire each child to take a keen interest in the complex world they inhabit and the people with whom they share it. To modern children this is the world of social media, technology and rapid change where anything is possible. We are telling our pupils that they do not have to wait to grow up before they can make a difference in the world. They could well come up with solutions to the big social and environmental challenges threatening our population and planet today. They could be the creators of the next fantastic concept that could take the world by storm. We want our pupils to grow in the values they choose as guiding posts in their lives so that they can fulfil their role in society and make a difference in the wider community.

Oakhill follows the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) syllabus which maintains international university entrance standards. We take very seriously our responsibility to provide excellence in preparing our senior pupils for their NSC examinations. Internationally, a school leaver's certificate is regarded as very important for accessing tertiary education and even the world of work. The South African National Senior Certificate (NSC) is accepted as a credible qualification by South African and international universities, provided that the results achieved by candidates are good enough. It is therefore imperative to us that Oakhill pupils leave school with the best possible matric results. We are proud of the excellent results our pupils have achieved, year after year, since the inception of the school, thanks to exceptional teachers who will leave no stone unturned in the guidance and support of their pupils.

We are proud to send out young people from Oakhill who are well rounded citizens with the ability to think for themselves and the heart to care for others and the environment. We send them off to be difference makers in a future world holding exponential change, massive challenges and unlimited opportunity.

Head of School

APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1: ***GETTING TO KNOW OAKHILL SCHOOL***

You could...

- Visit our School for a walkabout - call our marketing office to make an appointment.
- Come to one of our Open Days.
- Visit our website: www.oakhill.co.za.
- Chat with a current Oakhill parent (we will gladly put you in touch).

STEP 2: ***PROVISIONAL APPLICATION***

This means that you are interested and that you genuinely wish to consider Oakhill as your school of choice. The Application Fee must be paid at this point too.

STEP 3: ***MEET WITH OUR HEAD OF PREP/COLLEGE AND HEAD OF SCHOOL***

Once you have completed the Provisional Application process, we will arrange a meeting with our Head of Prep/College and Head of School. This is a necessary step for you and your child to ask any final questions and for us to assess whether your child would be happy joining our school.

STEP 4: ***PLACES OFFERED & CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTANCE***

Once you have met with the Head of Prep/College and Head of School please complete the Enrolment Form. This is the final step of the enrolment process. Thereafter a place will be offered in writing and the non-refundable development fee is due.

CONTACT US

Should you have any special requests or require any additional information, please contact us at one of the following:

Tel: +27 44 382-6506
Visit our website at www.oakhill.co.za

Head of School: Mr James Cross **j.cross@oakhill.co.za**
Head's PA: Mrs Lyndall Hill **l.hill@oakhill.co.za**
Marketing: Mrs Karine Trollip **k.trollip@oakhill.co.za**

2027 FEE SCHEDULE

TUITION FEES			
GRADE	**ANNUAL DISCOUNTED FEE (DUE BEFORE01 JAN 2027)**	**TERMLY (x 4 TERMS)**	**MONTHLY (11 MONTHS JAN-NOV)**
Grade 000	R50,949	R13,337	R4,850
Grade 00	R53,891	R14,107	R5,130
Grade 0 / R	R63,765	R16,692	R6,070
Grade 1	R87,664	R22,949	R8,345
Grade 2	R93,074	R24,365	R8,860
Grade 3	R97,276	R25,465	R9,260
Grade 4	R116,080	R30,387	R11,050
Grade 5	R116,080	R30,387	R11,050
Grade 6	R121,900	R31,911	R11,604
Grade 7	R121,900	R31,911	R11,604
Grade 8	R159,571	R41,772	R15,190
Grade 9	R159,571	R41,772	R15,190
Grade 10	R164,088	R42,955	R15,620
Grade 11	R164,088	R42,955	R15,620
Grade 12	R164,088	R42,955	R15,620
ADDITIONAL LEVIES			
IT Levy - Grade 2 to 3	R2,035	R509	R185
IT Levy - Grade 4 to 5	R2,475	R619	R225
IT Levy - Grade 6	R3,025	R756	R275
IT Levy - Grade 7	R3,410	R852	R310
IT Levy - Grade 8 to 9	R3,465	R866	R315
Grade 10 Odyssey	R13,500	R3,375	R1,227
GRADE 12 IEB EXAM FEES			
R10,394 for 7 compulsory subjects		*R1,536 for Further Studies Maths*	
R1,800 per extra subject (over and above the 7 compulsory subjects)		*R1,535 for Further Studies English*	
ENROLMENT FEES			
Application Fee*	**Placement Fee* (Determined by oldest child on entry)**		
R550 per student	**Little Oaks**	**Prep School**	**College**
**Enrolment fees are non-refundable*	R5,000 per family	R7,500 per family	R15,000 per family

BUS FEES			
DEPARTURE FROM	**ANNUAL DISCOUNTED FEE (BEFORE 01 JAN 2027)**	**TERMLY**	**MONTHLY** (11 MONTHS JAN-NOV)
Keurbooms (Keurbooms Service Station)	R18,279	R4,785	R1,740
Plettenberg Bay (Piesang Valley Community Hall)	R17,071	R4,468	R1,625
Harkerville (Sasol Harkerville)	R13,551	R3,547	R1,290

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **SIBLING REBATES**
   For tuition fees only, a sibling rebate of **5%** for the second child, **15%** for the third child, and **30%** for additional children is offered.

2. **FEES AND OTHER COSTS**
   2.1. A non-refundable Application Fee is payable per student on initial application.
   2.2. Placement Fees are payable on acceptance, and are once-off and non-refundable.
   2.3. Fees and levies are payable annually, termly or monthly, in *advance*, **by the 1st of the month**.
   2.4. Tuition fees include aftercare, all afternoon co-curriculars, and all compulsory, non-elective school outings and camps (except for Grade 10 Odyssey - see below).
   2.5. Other charges are due and payable at the time the expense arises, or as arranged with Accounts.
   2.6. The IT Levy covers the provision and ongoing support of a school-owned Chromebook, access to licensed Coding and Robotics applications, the IEB Xhuma platform, and other essential digital learning tools, in the relevant grades.
   2.7. Bus fees are calculated on a return trip basis. Should only a one-way trip be used, the fee will be revised accordingly.
   2.8. For Foreign Exchange students, full fees will be payable up front.

3. **THE ODYSSEY - GRADE 10**
   A separate fee for the Grade 10 Odyssey, is billed in Grade 10. The full fee is invoiced in advance, but is payable once off, termly, or monthly, by arrangement with Accounts.

4. **OVERDUE ACCOUNTS**
   Interest is charged on overdue accounts at 2% per month on the total of any arrears each month.

5. **NOTICE PERIOD ON TERMINATION OF CONTRACT**
   Three calendar months' written notice is required before withdrawing a student. If the required notice is not given, three calendar months' fees in lieu of notice will be payable and charged to the student's account.

6. **BANKING DETAILS**
   Oakhill School, First National Bank, Branch Knysna, Branch Code 210 214,
   Account Number **6200 2099 605**, Bank Swift Code FIRNZAJJ
   Please **reference** your payment with your **school account number**.

TERM DATES

2026 School Calendar:

TERM 1: Wednesday, 14 January 2026 - Friday, 27 March 2026
TERM 2: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 - Friday, 26 June 2026
TERM 3: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 - Wednesday, 23 September 2026
TERM 4: Tuesday, 13 October 2026 - Wednesday, 2 December 2026

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OAKHILL

Oakhill School grew from an idea sown in the early 1990's by pioneering parents who wanted a good education for their children. They sought to establish a school which expressed "joy in learning" and placed the child at the centre of an integrated curriculum. With educationalist Allan Graham at the helm, teachers' country-wide applied for posts and accepted appointments with no guarantees, save the dedication and enthusiasm of the Head of School and founding parents.

The new school's 54 pupils, ranging in age from six to sixteen, spent the first term of 1992 in a unit of the newly opened Woodmill Lane Mall. In April that year the school moved to its permanent location on the hillside above Knysna, sheltered by Oaks and with a view of the lagoon. The dream was realised.

Oakhill's story began with Allan Graham, who laid the foundation with no formal uniform, no prefect system and, unlike today, very little sport. He drew on his relationship with the IEB to advise other schools on opening sister campuses before moving to head Bridge House. After brief tenures by Gary Norton and Colin Winchester, Hilton Stander stabilised the school as numbers grew to nearly 350, adding eight new classrooms and modernising facilities. Shane Kidwell then led eight years of steady growth, embracing a "good to great" philosophy and building the systems, structures and infrastructure that have placed Oakhill among the top schools in the country.

Jannie de Villiers became Head in 2017, followed by Wayne Purchase, who took office in 2020, the year Covid-19 moved much of our teaching online. Graham Howarth joined in April 2021, appointed by the Board to bring experience, steadiness and a deepened commitment to inclusion and transformation during a period of uncertainty, and he retired in March 2025. Adam Rogers served briefly before returning to KwaZulu-Natal. To ensure stability and build on our current momentum, the Board has appointed Mr James Cross as Head of School from the start of 2026. James has long been a cornerstone of the Oakhill community as Head of Prep and Deputy Head of School.

Today Oakhill has around 500 pupils from Grade 000 to Grade 12 and is growing steadily in reputation and numbers, attracting children from local areas and from further afield. College pupils follow the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) syllabus which maintains international university entrance standards and is the benchmark for the highest education qualifications in South Africa. Excellent academic results and glowing appraisals from external assessors confirm Oakhill's progress.

The School is continually improving its facilities - from the classroom to the sports fields. The Information Technology Centres are constantly upgrading computer equipment and software to provide pupils with the necessary technological skills.

The school's growth has accelerated the need for double-streaming and new classrooms were opened in 2015 to accommodate the increasing numbers of children. It is inevitable when excellence across the curriculum is

achieved, a school will grow. Oakhill is prepared for this growth, growth in all senses - mind, heart and body. It is a demanding school, expecting dedication and excellence from staff, commitment and involvement from parents and the realisation of their potential from pupils.

Oakhill School purchased 17 hectares of land on the Welbedacht Road in Eastford to build the Oakhill Sports Campus (OSC) which boasts a state-of-the-art astroturf, hockey, cricket, rugby fields and clubhouse. Visit our website for more details http://www.oakhill.co.za/sports-campus/.

There were four designated projects which we were extremely excited to get off the ground in 2021:

- The deepening of the swimming pool on our school campus to allow the hosting of water polo matches.
- The construction of multi-purpose courts for tennis and netball at the OSC.
- The construction of a dam for water harvesting and water polo training at the OSC.
- Additional sports storage, gazebo and technical area alongside the existing cricket nets at the OSC.

OAKHILL SCHOOL MOTTO

'The Joy of Learning'

The motto encourages our whole community to experience thinking and learning and to enjoy the excitement of lifetime learning.

OUR VISION

Learning. Thinking. Enjoying. For life...

Oakhill School is to be a happy, vibrant and dynamic place for learning, where children flourish in an environment that celebrates diversity, rewards creativity, embraces discipline and produces academic excellence. Oakhill seeks to provide a broad, balanced education that is modern and relevant to our times and integrates the academic, cultural, social, physical and spiritual components necessary for a young person's development.

OUR VALUES

The School recognizes the individuality of each child and provides a framework in which freedom and discipline sit comfortably with each other. Children are encouraged to think independently and respect one another's viewpoint. This approach builds confidence, strength of character, self-discipline and instils a desirable value system and moral code that enables children to make decisions and take responsibility for their actions. The curriculum teaches our pupils to respect religious differences and allows parents to set the tone for a child's spiritual development. Oakhill pupils should leave with both life skills and the skills for life, ready to continue their journey with confidence.

OUR MISSION

Preparing pupils for life by encouraging them to think for themselves and take responsibility for the consequences of their decisions, for themselves, for others and for the environment.

THE THREE HOUSES

Gold was discovered outside Knysna in 1876.
Oakhill's three Houses are named after three of the leading mines:
Bendigo (colour – blue); **Jubilee** (colour – red); **Millwood** (colour – yellow)

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct is to be signed by <u>all Prep (Intermediate Phase) and College Pupils</u> (Grades 4 to 12) and their Parents/ Guardians/ Custodians.

At Oakhill, Pupils are treated with respect, recognised as individuals, and encouraged to develop self-discipline.

This Code of Conduct aims to facilitate a disciplined and purposeful school environment, dedicated to improving and maintaining the quality of education. Furthermore, this code aims to instil a value system that will serve our Pupils well beyond their school days.

The Code of Conduct also aims to ensure that the School 's curricular and co-curricular programmes are executed in the most orderly way possible to create a climate in which teaching and learning can take place effectively.

1. PRINCIPLES

The Oakhill Code of Conduct is guided by the following principles in its Constitution, set out under Aims of the School.

1.1 To assist Pupils in building strength of character and an appropriate value system.

1.2. To encourage Pupils to make informed choices, and to accept responsibility for those decisions and their consequences.

1.3. To provide a flexible approach to discipline with the aim of developing Pupils as self-disciplined individuals.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Educators at the School subscribe to the School's Code of Conduct and undertake [inter alia] to:

- Be punctual, well prepared and professional in their approach to education
- Manage pupil performance effectively and motivate pupils to achieve realistic and meaningful personal goals
- Be sensitive to the needs of their pupils and to address learning difficulties in a positive manner
- Praise, encourage, recognise and reward pupils who strive to achieve
- Create a classroom climate which is based on a learning partnership which makes education both relevant and stimulating
- Set a positive example for their pupils
- Administer discipline correctively and with dignity when necessary

2.2. Our School prides itself on having good relations with the School's community, its pupils and their parents. While parents should expect the School and its educators to provide the best education possible with the available resources, parents should also accept responsibility for helping the School to achieve this goal.

Parents enrol their children at the School subject to their acceptance of the School rules and other conditions of enrolment. Parents also have the responsibility to (at least):

- Actively support the efforts of the School and its educators to teach their children
- Involve themselves to the fullest possible extent in school activities

- Make positive suggestions and contributions to improve the School's education process and the learning environment
- Support the disciplinary structures and procedures of the School, and the reasonable efforts by the School to apply discipline effectively and fairly
- Encourage their children to participate fully in School and co-curricular activities
- Participate in the learning process and assist their children with homework, provide encouragement, check results and communicate freely with the School
- Ensure that pupils attend school regularly and are in attendance at all compulsory functions and activities, and that punctuality is practiced

In terms of the SA Constitution, every pupil has the right to education. The School strives to provide the educational opportunities that its pupils and the community deserve. Pupils themselves, however, must recognise that they have a responsibility to their parents, the School, their educators, their fellow pupils and themselves.

Pupils, therefore, must accept and comply with the School's rules and its conditions of enrolment. In more general terms, they must:

- Comply with instructions from educators and with the general rules of the School
- Behave responsibly and not endanger the safety, welfare and rights of others
- Respect and care for the property of the School and of others
- Maintain sound relations with others, be courteous and respect the dignity and self-worth of others
- Be punctual
- Demonstrate a positive attitude towards learning and be diligent in their efforts
- Behave honestly and conduct themselves with integrity
- Accept legitimate disciplinary action taken against them

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Oakhill School was founded in 1992 as an Association governed by a Constitution. It is registered as an independent school with the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) and is a member of the Independent Schools' Association of South Africa (ISASA). The Board of Governors is elected from the parent body and the wider community. Its duties and responsibilities are to appoint the Head of School, and under his or her guidance, the educators and staff. The Board continually assesses the direction of the school and strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability of Oakhill.

STAFF

In line with school policy, Oakhill's current academic staff of over 50 are all academically qualified for the grades and/or subjects they teach. College teachers regularly attend IEB User Group meetings to keep up to date with trends and developments in education policy and methodology. In addition, Oakhill stakeholders have implemented a framework to monitor academic standards and ensure the continuation of Oakhill's academic excellence. Oakhill's "open door" policy means parents may address any concerns to the Head and staff. Every day is an "open day" – parents are always welcome to visit and consult with teachers, and visiting families are encouraged to spend time on the school campus, with visiting pupils being encouraged to spend a day in their age appropriate class.

A FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Oakhill has three schools on its campus:

Little Oaks Pre-Prep (Grades 000, 00 and R)
Oakhill Prep School (Grades 1 - 7)
Oakhill College (Grades 8 - 12)

The school is managed by a team comprising the Head of School and Head of Prep and a management executive of educators and administrators.

LITTLE OAKS: GRADES 000 – R

The journey begins…

Little Oaks is a welcoming environment where young children first experience the 'Joy of Learning' and thrive in a space that stimulates natural curiosity as they embark on their voyage of discovery. Our team of qualified, experienced and dedicated teachers, along with our teacher assistants, ensure that each day is exciting and meaningful through creative teaching and multi-sensory learning. Each child is given individual guidance and encouragement throughout each activity as needed.

Teachers plan a holistic and integrated curriculum to develop age appropriate skills and continually assess according to developmentally appropriate outcomes, in all areas of development. Our curriculum encompasses movement lessons for gross motor development, art and craft activities for fine motor development, creativity and expression, and a range of educational games for cognitive and perceptual development. Dance movement classes are given by our Prep dance teacher to further enhance physical coordination and enjoyment. Music and singing are very important in the Pre-Prep programme, encouraging participation, concentration, language and listening skills, co-operation and positive behaviour in a most enjoyable way.

From Grade 000 pre-reading, pre-writing and pre-maths skills are practiced daily for development to ensure school readiness. The children are introduced to tactile letter shapes and phonetic sounds in Grade 000 and 00 and in Grade R begin *THRASS*, a phonic/reading programme that is used throughout the Prep phase. Experimentation with many different art and writing materials develop fine-motor and eye-hand coordination. Pre-maths activities encourage numeracy skills including number recognition, number concept, shape, time, conservation and measuring. The children experiment, discover and problem solve in informal ways both indoors and outdoors - often with sand, water, natural materials and construction toys!

As part of the Foundation Phase, the Grade R's also enjoy and interact on a weekly basis with Prep Staff for Afrikaans, isiXhosa and Music, and also make use of the schools iPads to learn new skills and work in educational Apps to enhance learning, with the class teacher.

Our focus is learning through play. Our environment both in the classroom and outdoors is thoughtfully laid out according to the needs of familiarity as well as growth. Available to all children is a variety of engaging activities including art and craft, construction toys, educational games, puzzles, books, nature tables, house corners, fantasy play and dress-up. We create areas for children to interact not only with equipment, but more importantly with others, providing the opportunity for social development and emotional growth as children learn to share, take turns and build both self-confidence and resilience as well as problem solving skills. Our

outdoor playscape provides opportunities for – running, climbing, sliding, swinging, cycling, tree climbing, digging, building, and water play. Apart from making good use of our own environment, we also enjoy the use of the Astro and grass fields as well as the swimming pool on our Oakhill campus. The children thoroughly enjoy outings each term that enrich and broaden their horizons and are an extension of our current learning themes.

We believe that in Grades 000, 00 and R children learn best when they are playing, when they are actively involved in making their own discoveries, when they are relaxed and having fun, when they are healthy and safe, when they are encouraged in their creativity and when they are talking and interacting with others.

"We believe that a child's school day must be balanced "learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some." - R Fulghum

OAKHILL PREP (FOUNDATION PHASE): GRADES 1 -3

An age of discovery…

In the Foundation Phase at Oakhill the **"Joy of Learning"** is evident in the happy and engaged little children you will find here. It is a place where our children's ideas are heard and encouraged, creative and cultural talents are discovered and nurtured, academic skills and knowledge are integrated and implemented, sporting skills are practiced and promoted, individual strengths and passions are celebrated, play is seen as a necessity, self-discovery and exploration is guided, confidence is gently developed and each child is highly valued.

It is a wonderful, warm, vibrant and exciting learning environment, alive with laughter and possibilities… This **"Joy of Learning"** is enhanced and facilitated by a team of dynamic, dedicated and passionate teachers who are committed to implementing our Learning Programme in creative, inspiring and relevant manner, with a focus on cross-curricular thematic teaching, learning style identification, critical thinking skills and a multisensory approach, ensuring that our children experience confidence, success, support and joy in these vital early years of their learning journey. We embrace the framework of the National Curriculum Statement and the ISASA Early Childhood Development Curriculum as the basis of our integrated, holistic Foundation Phase learning programme.

The **Joy of Literacy Learning** is encouraged through the implementation of the child-centered THRASS Phonic Methodology and Philosophy. (THRASS – Teaching Handwriting, Reading and Spelling Skills) and an individualised, integrated reading programme which incorporates a variety of reading schemes.

The **Joy of Mathematics Learning** is facilitated through the Singapore Maths system which teaches fundamental computation and number manipulation skills as well as routine and non-routine problem solving in a structured, sequential and developmental manner with a successful learning spiral. This focused system highlights the use of concrete apparatus and active learning, during lessons in order to create positive momentum for the learning of Maths.

The **Joy of Life Skills Learning** is captured in our CARE Programme (Character and Relationship Education) where our Oakhill value system is presented, explored and discussed and our social and emotional development is nurtured.

The **Joy of Learning about the world we live in** is taught by means of a socially responsible, relevant cross-curricular thematic approach, underpinned by the premise that environmental awareness and respect are vital in developing an appreciation and understanding of the diversity of our country and our place in the world. Learning is discovery-based and experiential, making use of our beautiful Garden Route surroundings.

The **Joy of Music, Art, Dance, Drama and Sport** all form a daily, integral part of our learning experiences and are offered by passionate, specialist teachers.

"We need to allow for education of the heart as well as the cerebral cortex". - L Holdstock

OAKHILL PREP (INTERMEDIATE PHASE): GRADES 4 - 7

A lively learning ground…

The curriculum in Grade 4-7 covers the following learning areas: English First Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Mathematics (Singapore Maths), Natural Science and Technology, Social Sciences, Art, Drama, Music, Life Orientation, Physical Education & Economic Management Sciences (Grade 7 only).

We run a 10-day timetable with 40 minute lessons to improve concentration, productivity and time management and maximize on teaching and learning with an emphasis on cooperative learning. Technology is integrated into lessons with the emphasis on content creation, collaboration and digital citizenship. Collaboration takes place across grades with various projects throughout the year.

Teachers follow a child-centered approach in classrooms, recognizing individual needs, while encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their learning. Academic support is offered in class during lessons but also on a tutorial basis, in support classes after school or on a one-on-one basis with a specialist.

We benchmark ourselves nationally and internationally with pupils in grade 6 writing the IEB Core Skills Tests and the IEB International Benchmarking Tests (ACER).

Learning is not only limited to the classroom. Various camps and outings are organised for each grade throughout the year to enhance the learning experience and allow pupils to learn more about the environment, science, history, agriculture, conservation, leadership, problem solving and adventure thus taking advantage of the garden route and Knysna's unique setting.

"One looks back with appreciation to brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum has so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child." - Carl Jung

OAKHILL COLLEGE (JUNIOR): GRADES 8 - 9

A time for growth…

Having emerged from Preparatory School, young teenagers are searching for their place in the world. This is an exciting yet challenging part of the journey towards adulthood. Grades 8 and 9 offer a caring and supportive environment, which stimulates and inspires pupils to achieve their potential.

The curriculum in this phase covers an extensive range of Learning Areas: English, Afrikaans, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Economic Management Science, Arts, Music, Drama and Life Orientation.

At the end of this phase, pupils are well equipped to make educated choices regarding their seven Matriculation subjects. During the latter part of Grade 9 all pupils will write the IEB Common Task of Assessment.

Teachers in this phase act as facilitators. They encourage pupils to be self-motivated and to take responsibility for their own learning through projects and self-study assignments. Test timetables and project deadlines issued at the beginning of each term promote efficient organisational and time management skills.

Rather than supply ready-made solutions, the teachers assist the pupils in developing their ability to initiate concepts, investigate resources, access and distill pertinent information and draw their own conclusions. These are the first steps towards independent, critical thinking and decision-making.

Outings offer valuable learning experiences away from the classroom. An annual camp provides opportunities for participation, teamwork, friendship and self-discovery.

A Life Orientation programme helps our teenagers to understand the trials, tribulations and triumphs of adolescence, with a full-time Counsellor always available for advice and support.

OAKHILL COLLEGE (SENIOR): GRADES 10 - 12

The pursuit of excellence…

During these final years at school (Grades 10, 11 and 12), emphasis is increasingly on academic excellence as pupils prepare for the National Senior Certificate Examinations (Matric) written through the Independent Examinations Board (IEB). In Grade 10 pupils make their subject choices for Matric.

SUBJECT CHOICES - ***to be completed ONLY by those entering Grade 10, 11 & 12***

The National Curriculum Statement requires all pupils to study four compulsory subjects:
English Home Language; Afrikaans First Additional Language; Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy & Life Orientation

Students must take Afrikaans together with three elective subjects, ensuring that only one subject is selected from each subject line.

Students exempt from Afrikaans or have been granted Immigrant Status are required to select one subject from each of the four subject lines.

	Compulsory subject	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4	Further Studies Subjects
GRADE 10 (matriculate in 2029)	English HL Maths / Maths Lit Life Orientation	Business Studies History Life Sciences Physical Sciences Tourism	Afrikaans FAL Accounting CAT Life Sciences	Afrikaans FAL Dramatic Arts Geography IT	Afrikaans FAL Business Studies Geography History Visual Arts	Further Studies English Further Studies Maths
GRADE 11 (matriculate in 2028)	English HL Maths / Maths Lit Life Orientation	Business Studies History Life Sciences Physical Sciences	Afrikaans FAL Accounting CAT Life Sciences	Dramatic Arts Geography IT Tourism	Afrikaans FAL Business Studies Geography History Visual Arts	Further Studies English Further Studies Maths
GRADE 12 (matriculate in 2027)	English HL Maths / Maths Lit Life Orientation	Business Studies CAT History Physical Science Tourism	Business Studies Dramatic Arts Geography IT Life Sciences	Afrikaans FAL CAT Geography Visual Arts	Afrikaans FAL Accounting History Life Sciences	Further Studies English Further Studies Maths

Further Studies English and Further Studies Mathematics may be selected as additional subjects. While tuition is included, parents/guardians are required to cover the cost of textbooks and the additional examination fees.

MUSIC (Trinity) may be taken as an eighth subject. In this case, examination fees and cost of practical lessons will apply.

These bands are available if qualifying requirements are met and there are sufficient students per class. Oakhill reserves the right to amend subject packages.

Experienced teachers guide pupils towards making the best possible subject choices according to ability, interest and ambition. The maturing adolescents must now master many skills. The ability to think and work independently, critically and creatively, to access knowledge and reach understanding and to communicate clearly, are the challenges facing them. Teachers and pupils become partners in a dynamic learning process, serving as a final springboard to adulthood.

Field trips form a strong part of the curriculum and pupils spend time each year at an educational camp, exploring ecological issues, experiencing team-work and developing leadership qualities. The Senior College provides outstanding preparation for the challenges facing our young people as they venture onto further education and future careers.

THE ARTS

Visual Arts

The Art Studio at Oakhill is a centre of creativity, offering tuition in both three dimensional media and two dimensional forms of art. Pupils learn formal and applied methods and are also introduced to modern innovative techniques that allow for personal exploration.

The Studio focuses on drawing skills as an integral foundation for all the arts. At all times the emphasis lies in the nurturing of the creative impetus of the individual and the formulation of an individual style. The Studio exhibits the annual IEB practical examinations.

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts are an integral and vital part of the holistic education offered at Oakhill. Through the study and development of movement and voice, pupils acquire the ability to express themselves physically and vocally with confidence.

In the Prep School all pupils, boys and girls, take dance classes as well as Drama classes given by specialised teachers. Speech and Drama classes build self-confidence and culminate in theatrical productions in which each child may experience the thrill and the excitement of performing on stage. In the Prep School Dance is offered to all pupils from Grade 1 -3 and Drama is offered from Grade 1 -7. The Prep School Drama Department produces a production annually alternating between Grades 1-3 and Grades 4-7 each year.

In the College, the study of Dramatic Art becomes more formal as texts, both classical and modern, are thoroughly explored, auditions held, and productions mounted. Pupils are involved in all aspects of production to achieve a synthesis of the visual arts, music, movement and dramatisation. By the time pupils reach their final year, they are well equipped for the IEB practical examinations.

Music

Music is an integral part of the school curriculum. At Oakhill, music and the playing of instruments is enjoyed by all pupils. The Music Centre provides pupils with opportunities to explore music in all its dimensions, to acquire theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills with instruments.
The aims of the Music Centre are:

- To ensure that all pupils who enter the Preparatory School learn to play at least one instrument.
- To encourage pupils to experience the joy of making music.

- To promote the development of musical interest and talent through individual tuition, ensemble and choral work.
- To build a sense of self-worth through mastering the disciplines encouraged by Music.

Music as a co-curricular activity
Oakhill School endeavours to provide tuition to any student willing to learn an instrument. At present lessons are provided in the following instruments: piano, flute, concert flute, recorder, saxophone, trumpet, woodwind instruments, harp, drums, guitar - both classical and electrical, violin and clarinet.

The Choir
The Preparatory School showcases three choirs (Grades 1-3, Grades 4-7 & Grade 8-9) and continues to build a solid reputation. The choirs perform at assemblies and other internal and external functions such as concerts, festivals and eisteddfods.

The Prep school also offers class music from Grade 1 – 7 as research has shown that music education, including listening, playing and appreciation develops IQ and EQ.

All the Arts subjects (learning areas) are presented and facilitated by specialist teachers who combine a passion for their field of expertise with a love for children.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Physical Education
Physical Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all pupils. The Sports Programme at Oakhill aims to promote a healthy lifestyle, a strong body, self-discipline and a positive competitive spirit. The lessons of humility, courage, discipline and teamwork learned on the sports field are essential components of a balanced education. Within the curriculum all pupils are given the opportunity to learn skills and develop talents, build confidence and enhance physical and social well-being. Beginning with rudimentary ball skills in Grade 000 through to the well-developed athleticism and skill required at College level, a committed team of coaches strive to meet the needs of each pupil. In the Prep school everyone who plays gets to be in a team. This ensures that every child experiences the joy of teamwork and team spirit.

Games
Participation in Games is compulsory. There are a wide range of sports available and younger boys and girls are encouraged to play team games. Sport at Oakhill is not just for recreation. It encourages young men and women to become more self-aware, to build character and to grow their leadership qualities. Pupils participate in at least one of the following sporting activities each term. Oakhill teams are entered in the regional league fixtures and matches are played against other schools on the Garden Route and further afield too. Our players also participate, with well-established success, in regional and provincial trials to represent South Western Districts/EDEN.

- Athletics
- Cricket
- Water Polo
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis

In addition to its own sports facilities and coaches, Oakhill also makes use of off-campus facilities and the expertise of other specialised coaches - providing transport for pupils where necessary. Pupils are thus able to take advantage of a wide variety of activities with the best possible coaching.

Clubs and Societies
There are a number of extra-curricular clubs and societies which pupils are encouraged to join.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

Scholarships
These are awarded annually on the basis of performance in the Scholarship Examination usually written in March each year. Pupils in Grade 7 are invited to write the Scholarship Examination on the recommendation of their Prep School Head.

Written papers in English, and Mathematics are based on Grade 6 work. Candidates will be expected to prepare a speech, be involved in a group facilitation involving thinking skills. They will also be interviewed by senior staff.

Scholarships are awarded on academic performance only and all awards are for the candidates' whole College career, provided that conduct and diligence are satisfactory. The right to not make awards, or awards to the amount mentioned above, in any year, is reserved by the school.

Bursaries
Funds are made available for financial assistance to families who would not normally be able to afford Oakhill's fees. Consideration is only for pupils from Grade 4 and older. Applications for bursaries need to be made in writing to the Head of School by 1 August the **year before** the family are considering applying for assistance.

Bursaries are awarded on the basis of need and talent and are subject to outside donors and partnerships with business and sponsors. Preference is given to children from previously disadvantaged backgrounds.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Do you have boarding facilities?**
   No, we do not.
2. **How many terms do you have in the academic year?**
   Four terms.
3. **Are you an English medium school?**
   Yes, we are.
4. **Are you co-educational?**
   Yes, we are.
5. **What ages do you cater for at Oakhill?**
   We accommodate children from Grade 000 (turning 4 years old) to Grade 12 (Matric).
6. **What are your class sizes?**
   Classes are small and intimate and vary according to grade. The maximum size per class is 25 pupils.

7. **What are your fees?**
   Our fees change annually and are available on our website (www.oakhill.co.za/admissions/fee-schedule/).
8. **What is your admissions procedure?**
   Our website has details and the procedure is clearly indicated in this document. Families are interviewed by the Head of Prep/College and the Head of School, and a copy of the pupils' latest report must be submitted. (https://oakhill.co.za/admissions/)
9. **What is your Matric pass rate?**
   100% since our first Matrics wrote the IEB Senior Certificate in 1994 but we would prefer to be judged by how our pupils cope at University and life thereafter.
10. **What subjects do you offer at Oakhill?**
    We offer an extensive range of learning areas offered in the South African National Curriculum including Visual Arts or Dramatic Arts as well as Mathematics, Science and a number of languages.
    Our Matrics write the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) National Senior Certificate which is internationally recognised.
11. **Do you offer extra lessons?**
    All of our teachers are obliged to assist pupils in their classes who may be struggling. Most of our major academic departments offer lessons in the afternoons throughout the week. Pupils who have specific learning or concentration difficulties will be referred to our Support Unit.
12. **Do you have a school uniform?**
    Yes, we do and our Clothing Shop is situated on the school campus.
13. **Are you affiliated to ISASA?**
    Yes, we are affiliated to the Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa (ISASA).
14. **Is Sport compulsory?**
    Yes, and we participate regularly in fixtures in our area and further afield. We see our task as developing the whole human being so it only makes sense to have all pupils involved in Art, Drama and Music as well.
15. **Where do most of your Pupils come from?**
    We have a large number of pupils that we bus through from Plett on a daily basis, with the majority coming from Knysna.
16. **Are you involved in DBE (National Department of Basic Education)?**
    Yes, we are. We comply with the National Education Act. As well as registered with the Western Cape Department of Education and Umalusi.