



The Settlers High School

6 July 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

REVISED OPTIONS FOR SCHOOLING / DISTANCE LEARNING

On Friday afternoon, 3 July, we received written confirmation that the Department of Basic Education released new directions in Government Notice 343 (*Government Gazette No. 43365*) in terms of Regulation 4(3) under the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002) with regards to the options provided when learners return to school. These amendments now also include an option to exempt a learner **without comorbidities** temporarily and conditionally from compulsory school attendance.

The Western Cape Education Department published new information and documents to be used when applying for these exemptions. In order to minimise confusion with regards to the various documents provided, we have combined all the required documents into one document, which also includes the details of how this exemption will be implemented at The Settlers High School.

Should you wish to apply for an exemption from compulsory school attendance – whether as a personal preference or as a result of a medical condition - please note the following procedure:

1. Complete the application form (TSHS_Distance_learning_Application.pdf) attached with this letter. Please note that **only this form will be accepted**, as this form will also provide us with the details required to successfully implement our Distance Learning system.
2. Return to form to our social worker, Ms Frieslaar (sw@settlers.org.za).

Please turn over page

The Settlers High School

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Before you make the important decision about whether or not to have your child learn at home, it is also important to consider the implications of such a decision.

School plays a very important role in the development of adolescent identity. There have been many studies that show that adolescents are not influenced by parents, but rather peers during the time of adolescence. This important milestone helps adolescents with real-world decision making, identifying role models such as teachers and hard-working peers, time management (which teaches responsibility), as well as the consequences of actions that would not be experienced at home.

School also helps adolescents assess what they like and do not like in subjects, activities, people and adult behaviour. In addition to this, learners have the free-space at school to raise their opinions and act on their individuality within reason.

This pandemic makes sending your child to school a very complicated decision, but while you are thinking about possibly safe-guarding your child from the virus, think about what you are taking away from their development as a young adult.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H SMUTS', written in a cursive style.

H SMUTS

Deputy Principal

Literature used: Verhoeven, M., Poorthuis, A.M. and Volman, M., 2019. The role of school in adolescents' identity development. A literature review. Educational Psychology Review, 31(1), pp.35-63.