



## **'School@Home' Guide**

## Foreword

According to the World Economic Forum's report released during 2015, South Africa finished *close to last – 139 out of 143 countries* when looking at the overall quality of its education system and *last* in the quality of mathematics and science education. Source: [weforum.org/global-informationtechnology-report-2015/](http://weforum.org/global-informationtechnology-report-2015/)

The standard of education in most public schools in South Africa is rapidly reaching 'rock bottom' and despite numerous promises made over many years by the Minister of Education there is no sign of improvement. Both parents and scholars are feeling helpless and their only way out of this mess is to look for an alternative to public education. Every parent has the right by law to educate their child as an alternative to public education but their options are limited to the following:

***A. Relocate to a foreign country where the standard of education is higher.***

South Africans tend to think that the demise of public education is a South African phenomenon. This is however not the case. It is a worldwide phenomenon. Take the USA for instance. The failing of public schools in the United States is well documented. Learners in the United State experience that *public schools are like prisons*. Schools and prisons are both compulsory, overcrowded, prone with violence and poorly managed. Both assume that the same solution is the best for all individuals.

***B. Send their children to Private Schools.***

Due to the prohibitive cost of Private Schools not many families can afford this option.

***C. School their children at home. Syllabis 'School@Home'***

School at home means teaching your children at home, and doing it the same way it is done in schools, using the same methods, workbooks, texts, worksheets, etc. that typical schools use. It's really like setting up a small classroom at home, for you and your children, but you still get the social benefits, higher academic benefits, etc. of home schooling. School at home is also called a "more structured" approach. If you are going to do this, it is best to get "home school" curriculums rather than use programs designed for schools. A good home school curriculum will explain to you as a parent, what and how to teach that day's material.

The cost of homeschooling is substantially lower than Private Schools and generally less than Public Schools. However, problems arise in cases where families depend on the income of both parents so supervision of the children becomes an issue. This can be resolved by employing a full time or temporary Teacher/Tutor from Syllabis Tutors, but parents have, for the first time, a further option available to them, namely:

'Syllabis learning', a blend of private and homeschooling:

***D. Syllabis learning. (A blend of 'Private' and 'Homeschooling').***

Syllabis learning (*a division of Syllabis School@Home*) is a newly formed home-based education and tutoring organisation which supports families by providing parents with the tools they need to give their children a successful education. We offer individual services tailored to meet their needs as well as dedicated to assisting and equipping families in providing high-quality instruction for their child's education. The cost of Syllabis learning package is slightly higher than that of a good Public school but a lot less than most Private Schools so families end up with a positive education solution

Syllabis learning currently provides CAPS based curriculum support for Grade R – 10 and will introduce Grade 11 & 12 during 2017. A Pilot Syllabis learning centre has recently been established in Northcliff Johannesburg and licensed centres will soon be established countrywide.

This document, compiled from various sources, contains a comprehensive overview of the state of Homeschooling in South Africa. Once you have worked through this document you should be able to decide if homeschooling your child with the support of VirtualSchools and/or alliance partners is the right solution for your family. But first you need to eliminate any fears of homeschooling and a buy-in from both parents and children, unless of course you are already an active homeschooling family and you are merely looking for additional support services.

## **Eliminate The Fear Of Homeschooling**

### **Three Basic Fears Examined**

Overcoming your fears of homeschooling is the first step in making one of the most important decisions of your life as well as your child's life. The opportunity to homeschool your children is not only a blessing but it is a privilege. It is well understood that not everyone is able to home school, but for those that do, the chance should be seized upon. No one loves your child more than you do, therefore you are the one that can make the greatest impact on his or her life. It is your reasonability to ensure your child's development and what better way to guarantee your child's maximum potential than your personal involvement.

#### **1. Some fear their child will not acquire the best education.**

When you homeschool you can closely monitor his or her pace of development and allow him or her to do their very best. Too many times in public schools they focus on the "middle of the road" students (due largely to the vast number of students in overcrowded classrooms) henceforth, some children are held back while others are given "social promotions". Homeschool gives your child the advantage of moving on in a subject if they are advanced or taking the time to grasp the subject completely before moving on making certain they have the skills necessary to achieve the goals they have for their lives.

#### **2. Some fear they are not qualified to educate.**

In most cases, no one is more qualified to educate your child than you. There are so many good curriculums available now that lays everything out for you that the argument of being under qualified is now null and void.

#### **3. Some fear the social development of their child.**

This is somewhat understandable considering the fact that they will need dexterity in interacting with others when they become adults. Again, with all of the positive community sports programs, clubs, and other sources of social interaction such as Churches, the argument is minimal at best. This the greatest gateway to have an impact on his or her life, to instill in them the morals and values that are so needed to become a productive member of society.

So if you are considering Homeschooling for the first time due to your dissatisfaction with academic instruction and school environment issues, or for any other reason, then you have come to the right place, and you are strongly advised to *'take the leap of faith'* sooner than later. The education of your child and his or her security is of utmost importance.

Considering the above this should be one of the easiest decisions you have ever had to make.

**Good luck!**

## **Frequently asked Questions & Answers**

### **1. Is homeschooling legal in South Africa?**

Yes, home schooling is legal in South Africa and was incorporated into the South African Schools Act in 1996. However, should you approach your local school or education department for guidance you are most likely to receive a very vague response, as in most instances, local officials do not

truly understand the laws relating to home education, and may therefore ask for far more information than the law requires, or give you false information regarding requirements to homeschool your children and *most certainly* try and fleece you of your hard-earned cash.

The Association for Home Schooling was established in 1992, when home schooling was still actively repressed by the previous government. It was incorporated into the SA Schools Act of 1996 only after a heavy battle, also in parliament, and after the Home School Legal Defense Association of the USA exercised political pressure to have homeschooling recognized in South Africa. Historically, therefore, legal recognition of home education came against the will of a reluctant government. As a result, education departments and officials persist in placing a wide variety of unlawful stumbling blocks in the path of homeschooling families.

<http://www.pestalozzi.org/en/legal-issues>

## **2. Should my children be registered with the Department of Education?**

There is no specific law that stipulates that parents must register their children with the Department of Education. "According to legal advice obtained by the Pestalozzi Trust (the South African homeschool legal defense association), various aspects of the new education system are in conflict with law and the constitution. The Trust therefore supports all lawful actions to avoid or prevent the imposition of the system. In accordance with legal advice, the Trust can no longer recommend the registration of members of the Trust with education authorities as provided for by legislation.

["http://www.pestalozzi.org/en/legal-issues](http://www.pestalozzi.org/en/legal-issues)

Although parents have the right to educate their children at home, more than 90% of homeschooling families are not registered with the provincial Department of Education, because homeschoolers are expected to meet requirements prescribed by officials that do not understand home education or the law on home education.

## **3. Why do families homeschool?**

Many parents commit to schooling their children at home. Their motivation is the conviction that this is the best for the moral and spiritual development of their family, and it is the best way to provide a solid education for their children. They know what their children are being taught in the areas of spiritual and character development, as well as about the social and academic well being of their children.

### ***Specific Advantages have been expressed as follows:***

- Homeschooling makes quality time available to train and influence children in all areas of life.
- Each child receives individual attention and has his unique needs met. Parents can control destructive influences such as negative peer pressure and offensive curriculum.
- Opportunity is available for spiritual training and presenting a biblical perspective of all academic subjects.
- Children gain respect for their parents as teachers
- The family experiences unity, closeness, and mutual enjoyment of each other.
- Children develop confidence and independent thinking, away from negative peer pressure to conform, in the security of their own home.
- Children have time to think and explore new interests.
- Communication between different age groups is enhanced.
- Flexible scheduling can accommodate parents' work and vacation times and allow time for many activities.

#### **4. What do I need to homeschool my children?**

There are ample learning materials available for home schooling in South Africa from a number of reputable curriculum suppliers. Some of them have been developed locally, some imported from abroad. A number are on computer, some are partially computerised, while others make use of textbooks. The materials available are usually easy to use, for parents too. Many homeschoolers also make use of distance education facilities, which a parent with a child in home education can use almost independently.

#### **5. What qualifications do I need to homeschool?**

You know your children better than anyone and have the deepest love and concern for them. You also have the most direct and long-term responsibility for your children. Your example and enthusiasm in learning with your children will motivate and encourage them far more than striving to appear you know it all. You do not need to know everything in order to teach. Tutoring children has always been superior to the typical classroom. Homeschooling epitomizes this method, providing the essentials for success and a close relationship between the student and the teacher, motivation, flexibility, and individualization.

#### **6. Is learning computer based?**

Most schooling curriculums place strong emphasis on children accessing information themselves, and computer-based learning is a daily feature of school life, where affordable. This should also, to a large degree, be the case in the homeschooling environment because, after all, computers have become an integral part of life so why not get an early start.

#### **7. What happens when my child has difficulty in one or more subjects?**

Most parents organize their home schooling in such a way that they provide for their children's specific needs and abilities. One does not have to do all the subjects at the same level. If a child has an aptitude for Maths, there is nothing to stop him or her from continuing with the next grade's work once this grade's work has been finished. Or vice versa: if the child/children have not mastered this year's Afrikaans, they simply return to the previous year's books and together with their parents start looking for the cause of the problems.

#### **8. What about tests and assessments and where do students complete their tests and exams? Assessment works as follows:**

##### **Grade R – 12**

##### **Self**

The Self-assessment method comes in the form of June / July and November / December test and is pre-packaged in the educational pack. Parents are provided with the answer keys required to complete the assessment at no additional cost. All exams, except grade 12, are written at the student's home or alternative location, in the presence of an independent invigilator / teacher.

##### **Movement to the next Grade**

It is the parent's decision to move the learned to the next grade. This decision can be made with the help of one of our professional consultants

##### **External**

External assessment is arranged with your dedicated educational consultant. This comes in the form of 2 annual examinations written under parental/invigilator supervision. (Recommended for grades 8 to 11). The cost of each assessment is currently as follows:

Grade	1 - 3	R 650 (Optional)
Grade	4 - 7	R 1000 (Optional)
Grade	8 - 9	R 2500 (Recommended)
Grade	10 -	R 2500 (Compulsory)

## **Report**

A formal Report is issued only when the learner is registered for External Formal Assessment.

## **Grade 12**

The final grade 12 examination is written at registered exam centres around South Africa. Parents / Tutors may compile their own progress reports, using tools supplied by most curriculum suppliers.

All exams, except grade 12, are written at the students home or alternative location, in the presence of an independent invigilator / teacher. The final grade 12 examination is written at registered exam centres around South Africa.

### **9. What happens if I don't have any knowledge of a subject I need to teach?**

Most homeschooling materials are designed to be used by parents and students who are not familiar with the subject matter. They are therefore self-explanatory. In most cases a teacher's guide is provided for the subject.

### **10. How much time does homeschooling take?**

It has been found that primary school age children in home schooling on average take more or less 2 to 3 hours per day to complete all their work (homework included) and secondary school age children on average more or less 3 to 4 hours per day. As a result children have more time to play, read, dream, socialize, get involved in hobbies, help in the house and in the garden, and make music. In short: they have time to live a normal life.

Homeschooling requires a time commitment, although not as much as you might expect. One-to-one tutoring is more efficient than classroom instruction and, therefore, requires less time. The time requirement varies according to the students' abilities, number of children in the family, and ages of the children. With the syllabis school@home curriculum there is a study plan. As a parent, you are there to supervise and make sure the student completes his work for the day.

### **11. Can we teach several children at once?**

The syllabis school@home curriculum makes it easy to teach more than one child at a time. Because you are basically their supervisor, you can oversee a number of children at one time.

### **12. What about socialization?**

This is perhaps the most misunderstood aspect of homeschooling. It is the positive aspects of socialization through the home that attracts many families to this lifestyle. Popular opinion assumes that children need periods on interaction with a group of peers to acquire social skills. By contrast, however, many believe that extensive peer contact during childhood can cause undesirable and negative peer dependency.

Young children are more likely to be influenced by the majority than to be independent and an example to others. Children who receive their education outside the home are prone to accept their peers; and teachers' values over those of their parents. Some advantages of freedom from peer pressure can be self-confidence, independent thinking, the ability to relate to people of all ages, and better family relationships. Moral principles of interaction can be taught, demonstrated, and reinforced at home by parents. Children can learn needed social skills by interaction with siblings or other children and adults under their parents supervision. Young people who have had this type of

training have adjusted very well to adult life. You can help your children build and maintain lasting friendships with people of all ages through church and family friends.

Do you want our child to model after you or after his peers, after his teachers at school or his teachers at home? What kind of socialization do you want for your child, positive or negative?

## **Home School Curriculums**

### **What is a Curriculum?**

Technically, a curriculum is a list of topics, concepts, ideas, etc. that will be taught. A homeschool curriculum usually also includes the texts, workbooks, and other materials used to teach that subject, and "directions for parents." There are many great curriculums (or programs) designed just for homeschoolers. Most people start home schooling with packaged curriculums, and then find their way from there, for what works best for their child. For some children this involves more formal studies. For others it is more informal hands-on play or exploring learning. For many, it is a mixture of methods.

### **Formal Curriculums**

Some subjects, like math, work better with a formal curriculum. This is probably because most math, particularly in the upper grades, must be done on paper.

### **Use "Home School" Curriculums**

If you are going to use formal curriculums, it is best to get "home school" curriculums rather than use programs designed for schools. A good home school curriculum will explain to you "as a parent," what and how to teach that day's material, and should have more hands-on exercises that are better suited to a home environment.

Homeschoolers can usually relate better than average both horizontally and vertically, take leadership positions often, are positive role models, have the tendency to build quality friendships and their self image is not dependent on group pressure.

### **How does Syllabis School@Home work?**

Syllabis School@Home South Africa is a complete school curriculum which is delivered both online and via traditional learning materials. The curriculum is compiled by registered South African teachers. We sell curriculum solutions to South African parents (Students) seeking to adopt homeschooling, either for their children or for themselves.

## **Core Curriculum**

The core curriculum consists of the following:

1. A Weekly Study Plan that tells you exactly what to study and when. This is flexible and can be changed to suite the learner. It comes with an easy to use checklist to ensure all areas are covered.
2. Text Books published by South African Publishers. (As well as various other open e-books)
3. E learning Solutions internally developed
4. Tutoring Solutions (Optional)

## Study Plan



## Study Material

All the study material is provided via the web and via textbooks. The study material can be provided for grades R to 10, in English. Grade 10 to 12 are in development stage for release at a later date.

## Assessment (Self / External)

All supplied curriculum meets the standard as set by the S A Department of Education. (SAPS)

## System

Each grade consists of online content accessed via our Websites, textbooks, and a detailed study plan which ties all the learning together into a concise and professional distance learning solution. With our cutting edge solution your first day of learning is in your home with your parent / guardian / Tutor. Our curriculum has been developed by leading South African educators. syllabis school@home is a true home school solution and offers every learner endless possibilities to achieve their best. Join us on the journey to successful, lifelong learning.

## Features

- syllabis school@home is the ideal home school solution with a complete curriculum and assessment developed for South Africa.
- Learning material is provided via a guided study plan, textbooks and a web based portal, ensuring curriculum content is always up to date.
- Additional value added curriculum support and assessment services are available. This is either Virtual support or One on One tuition.
- 100% Aligned to the SA Curriculum requirements.
- Day to day lesson and progress plan. This is facilitated via the online portal.
- Online tracking system to track student performance.
- Loaded with Current Events studies that link learning back to actual world events.

The core curriculum consists of a fully integrated, blended, day-to-day, scheduled curriculum which allows the learner to study at their own pace, and to allow them to be fully aware of the requirements which are set out in our learning system. This leads to maturity in learning. The lessons and resources enable the teacher / parent or tutor to guide the student through the required materials in a systematic, professional manner and efficient manner. This results in the building of solid foundations on which future studies will be based. Learning materials are delivered via a range of both computer based as well as traditional textbook materials.



## **How does Assessment Work? (Self / External)**

### **Self**

The Self-assessment method comes in the form of June / July and November / December test and is pre-packaged in the educational pack. Parents are provided with the answer keys required to complete the assessment.

### **External**

External assessment is arranged with your dedicated educational consultant. This comes in the form of 2 annual examinations written under parental supervision.

### **Report**

A formal Report is issued only when the learner is registered for External Formal Assessment.

Speak to the customer services representative today.

Assessment and Grading Codes

Excellent 80% – 100%

Well Done 70% – 79%

Exceeding Expectations 60% – 69%

Satisfactory 50% – 59%

Moderate 40% – 49%

Requires Development 30% – 39%

Requires Significant Development 0% – 29%

### **Curriculum Consulting Services**

2 Hours per annum of curriculum consulting services are included in the standard package.

Additional hours can be purchased at a rate of R200 per hour.

### **Admission**

Learners are welcome to join at any time of the year. Simply contact the office on 087 808 6972 and all admission requirements will be discussed with you by a friendly service representative.

## **Curriculum - Grade R**

Grade R is the first formal year of school. Students are usually between 4.5 and 5.5 years old. The study in grade R covers the following;

1. ABC / 123 – The Alphabet and Number Set.
2. Play and Learn – A number of fun activities to be completed.
3. A Number of defined components such as:
  1. The human body.
  2. Shapes.
  3. Animals.
  4. Sports.
  5. Jobs and Careers.
  6. Plants.
  7. Fish and the Oceans.
  8. Space and Earth.
  9. Senses
  10. Vegetables and Fruit
  11. Days, months, years and seasons
  12. Others...

**Base Cost:** R2 850

(Payment options below subject to change without notice)

<b>GRADE R</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 2 850

**Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

## **Curriculum - Grade 1 – 3**

### **The Foundation Phase**

With our cutting edge solution your first day of learning is in your home with your parent / guardian / Tutor. Our curriculum has been developed by leading South African educators. Virtual School is a true home school solution and offers every learner endless possibilities to achieve their best. Join us on the journey to successful, lifelong learning.

### **Admission**

Learners are welcome to join at any time of the year.

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) R3 750

(Payment options below subject to change without notice)

<b>GRADE 1 - 3</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 3 750

Formal assessment 1 R650 Formal assessment 2 R650

### **Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client prior to delivery

### **Required Subjects**

Mathematics, Life Skills, English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language

## **Curriculum - Grade 4 – 6**

### **Intermediate Phase (Gr 4 – 6)**

A very flexible solution for the middle grades, allowing for greater student led learning. Supported with cutting edge technology you are poised to be on a strong base for the higher grades. Start your journey with us Today.

### **Admission**

Learners are welcome to join at any time of the year.

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) **R5 500**(Payment options below subject to change without notice)

<b>GRADE 4 - 6</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 5 500

Formal assessment 1 R1000 Formal assessment 2 R1000

### **Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

### **Required Subjects**

Mathematics, Life Skill's English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (Geography & History), Economic and Management Sciences (only Gr 7)

## **Curriculum - Grade 7**

A very flexible solution for the middle grades, allowing for greater student led learning. Supported with cutting edge technology you are poised to be on a strong base for the higher grades. Start your journey with us today.

### **Fees Grade 7**

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) **R6 000**

(Payment options below subject to change without notice)

<b>GRADE 7</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 6 000

Formal assessment 1 R1000 Formal assessment 2 R1000.

### **Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

### **Required Subjects**

Mathematics, Life Skills, English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (Geography & History), Economic and Management Sciences (only Gr 7)

## **Curriculum - Grade 8 – 9**

### **Senior Phase (Gr 8 – 9)**

A very flexible solution for the middle grades, allowing for greater student led learning.

Supported with cutting edge technology you are poised to be on a strong base for the higher grades. Start your journey with us Today.

### **Admission**

Learners are welcome to join at any time of the year.

### **Fees**

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) **R7 000**

(Payment options below subject to change without notice)

<b>GRADE 8 - 9</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 7 000

Formal assessment 1 R2 500 Formal assessment 2 R2 500

### **Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

### **Required Subjects**

Mathematics, Life Skills, English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences (Geography & History), Economic and Management Sciences

## **Curriculum - Grade 10**

### **The Further Education and Training Phase (FET) (Grades 10-12)**

A very flexible solution for the NSC grades, allowing for greater student led learning. Supported with cutting edge technology you are poised to be on a strong base for the higher grades. Start your journey with us Today.

**How different is the first nine years of schooling from that of grades 10-12?**

During the first nine years of training in the General Education and Training Phase you were introduced to eight learning areas, which are a combination of various subjects. In the Further Education and Training Phase the learner will be introduced to additional individual subjects, which made up the eight learning areas.

**Fees**

Learning Material with study plan (no external assessment) **R11 000**

(Payment options below subject to change without notice)

<b>GRADE 10</b>	<b>DEPOSIT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Cash Price										R 11 000

Formal assessment 1 R2 500 Formal assessment 2 R2 500

**Text book delivery charges**

Delivery/courier charges payable by client in advance.

**Required Subjects**

Seven subjects comprising 4 compulsory and three optional subjects. A learner in Further Education and Training must select the following four compulsory subjects from the list of compulsory subjects below:

English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language or IsiZulu, Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy and Life Orientation

*A learner must select a minimum of **any three subjects** selected from the list of optional subjects as below:*

Accounting, Agricultural Sciences, Business Studies, Computer Applications Technology, Consumer Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Engineering Graphics and Design, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Tourism.

**Strategic Alliance Partners**

Strategic alliance partnerships have been concluded with other service providers to the education sector to ensure that Syllabis learning customers receive the best possible education experience at an affordable price.