

8 June 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

**RE: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE / REMOTE LEARNING ATTENDANCE**

Jabulane Christian Academy opened for classroom learning on 2 June 2020. As an Independent School, we are following a different calendar to the Public Schools. Learners are returning to the classrooms according to the following a phasing-in schedule:

DATE OF RETURN:	GRADES RETURNING DURING THE WEEK:
2 June 2020	3 and 7
8 June 2020	2 and 6
15 June 2020	1 and 5
22 June 2020	R and 4

As of 2 June 2020, the School is monitoring attendance of all learners, whether still at home busy with remote learning, or whether already back in the classroom.

**1. CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE:**

Please note that once a grade is phased back into the classroom, a learner will be marked absent if he/she does not come to school on the scheduled days. It is in learners' best interest to be back in the classroom in order not to fall behind with academic work.

Grades who attend School on a rotational basis, will work at home on days when they are not scheduled to be at School. Learners will continue to work on worksheets that will be submitted on the day that the learner's group is scheduled to be at School. If worksheets are completed and submitted on return, learners will be marked present for the days that they worked from home.

**1.1 Vulnerable individuals:**

According to the South African Schools Act (Act 84 of 1996), all children between the age of 7 and 16 are obligated to attend school. We do however understand that some learners have pre-existing health conditions (co-morbidities) that cause them to be in the vulnerable group. If parents feel that they can't send their child to School during this time they would have to put that in writing to school management, with the appropriate medical certificate, so that measures can be put in place by the School to assist the child. If a learner is still at home, they will only receive all the work if the School has been made aware of the situation and approved the requests. Please note that full school fees still need to be paid if the request to study from home has been approved.

**1.2 What to do if a Parent wishes to keep a learner at home if the learner does not have any pre-existing condition or comorbidity?**

Jabulane Christian Academy will unfortunately not be able to run a dual schooling system of classroom and remote teaching for other learners in any grade that is expected to be at school. The School does not have the capacity to do so. The Minister of Basic Education did allude to home-schooling as an option for parents who

do not want to send their children back to school. If a parent was to decide to follow this route, it would be totally independent of the school and their child would then have to be registered for home schooling with the department and deregistered from the school. It is important for parents to be cognizant of the fact that according to the South African School's Act, it is compulsory for children between the ages of 7-16 (grade 1-9) to attend school and be registered with a public or independent school or with a home-schooling service provider. Furthermore, according to Section 51 of the South African Schools Act, a parent must apply to the HOD of the Provincial Department of Education for the registration of a learner to receive education at the learner's home. The HOD will register a learner as contemplated in subsection (1) if he or she is satisfied that-

- (a) the registration is in the best interests of the learner;
- (b) the education likely to be received by the learner at home -
  - (i) will meet the minimum requirements of the curriculum at public schools; and
  - (ii) will be of a standard not inferior to the standard of education provided at public schools; and
- (c) the parent will comply with any other reasonable conditions set by the HOD.

Should a parent then wish to re-enrol a learner at JCA or any other school in 2021, it must be noted that such a learner would be considered as a new application and would then only gain admission to the school if there is space at the school in that particular grade. The school may also require the learner to complete a test to determine if a learner has acquired the relevant knowledge at the required standard to be placed in a specific grade. A certificate confirming that a learner has completed a grade successfully must be recognised by *Umalusi* and this will be verified by the school. A learner can thus, possibly be placed in the same grade for which she was enrolled in 2020.

## 2. REMOTE LEARNING ATTENDANCE:

Grades who are still working via the remote learning platform, can either access the work online (D6 Connect, Email, Bethesda Outreach Website, JCA Parent WhatsApp Group, etc.) or fetch the printed work from the School gate on Tuesdays between 08:00 and 15:00.

Remote learning attendance will be recorded for learners in grades that are currently still working via Remote Learning, for the period starting from 2 June 2020 (Week 7 of Remote Learning) until the scheduled date for return to the classroom. Attendance will be monitored in the following two ways:

- (i) The School will send parents a declaration form that needs to be signed by the parent and sent back to the register teacher, confirming whether the child completed the remote learning work or not.
- (ii) Learners will also be required to show their work that was assigned to them from 2 June 2020 until the date of return, to their register teacher. If the work is done, learners will be marked present for remote learning.

An insightful read is the *Position Statement: Return of South African children to school*, written by the South African Paediatric Association. Please take a few minutes to read the attached recommendation on returning to school from a medical perspective

Parents are welcome to contact the School office should you have any further questions.

Kind Regards



Anine Bonthuys  
Principal