



#### ***Vision Statement***

*Foundations for lifelong learning, leadership and success.*

#### ***Mission Statement***

*St Paul's College Namibia aims to equip and develop individuals with sound moral values and a strong academic foundation within a Christian ethos, by providing an internationally recognised education and a broad extra-curricular programme.*

# Frequently Asked Questions About Grade R

*Choosing a school for one's child can be a stressful experience. Parents need to select a school based on practicalities, finances, an excellent well-rounded education and an environment that speaks the ethos of the home. For this, as much information as possible is required before investing in a school.*

This document aims at answering questions that many parents have asked.

### **What is Grade R?**

- Grade R, also known as the Reception Year or Grade 0 in some schools.
- It is the year of schooling before Grade 1.
- Grade R caters for children who are 5 years of age, turning 6 within the year.
- Grade R forms part of the foundation phase.
- Grade R scholars learn pre-reading, pre-writing, pre-numeracy and social skills in a more structured learning environment.

### **What makes Grade R in St Paul's different from Gr R / Gr 0 in other Pre-Primary schools?**

- Our Grade R's have the opportunity to form the basis of their education in the Cambridge System.

### **How do I apply?**

- Applications are open via the website: [www.spcnam.org](http://www.spcnam.org)
- The admission system requires two attachments; a birth certificate and the latest progress report
- Parents may apply in advance for Grade R.
- Applications close mid-June each year.

### **How many scholars per Grade R class?**

- There are two Grade R classes.
- The maximum number of scholars per class is twenty-two.

### **Who teaches Grade R?**

- A teacher and class assistant for each class with the required skills, qualifications and temperament.
- Physical Education (PE) and Class Music will be covered by the staff of the PE and Music departments respectively.

### **What does the Grade R curriculum cover?**

- Core subjects of Mathematics and English (of the Cambridge Syllabus) will be followed.
- The curriculum will include: Christ-centred Religious Education, perceptual skills, number concepts, counting, basic addition/subtraction, speaking and listening skills, phonetic sounds, blending of sounds, introduction to reading, fine and gross motor development, Environmental Studies, singing & rhythm, Art, PE, Mind Moves as well as swimming during the summer months.

### **Will my child automatically be accepted into Grade 1?**

- Yes, unless there is a developmental delay that needs addressing. Discussions of this nature will be held in consultation with educational and developmental specialists, as well as parents, to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the child.

**Is it an all-day, all-inclusive grade?**

- School hours are from 07:20 - 12:30.
- Lessons end at 11:00 on Fridays. Parents have the option of collecting their children, leaving them in the class with the teacher or signing them up for optional activities of Olympic Kidz and Kiddie Sport.
- Food, aftercare and afternoon activities are not provided by the school.

**Do you have information about the entrance assessment?**

- Entrance assessments take place early in July/August.
- Children need to have mastered the age-appropriate developmental, perceptual, language and academic skills as indicated in the document, "Gr R Requirements"
- Parent input in the development of a child's physical, emotional, spiritual, social, spatial, linguistic and numerical development is evident during the assessment and is to the applicant's advantage.
- The assessment has a written and practical component where perceptual, fine and gross motor, language, listening and number concept skills will be assessed.
- It takes approximately 90 minutes for an assessment to be conducted.

**What is the process after the assessment is written?**

- Places will be offered on merit within three weeks of the assessment.
- Parents will be given sufficient information with the offer of acceptance to be able to make an informed decision about whether St Paul's is the school for their family.
- Children from any pre-school have the same opportunity for acceptance.
- Depending on results, favourable consideration is given to siblings and alumni of St Paul's College.

**What costs are involved?**

- An assessment fee of N\$ 500 is paid on the day of the assessment.
- After a place has been allocated to your child, an amount of not more than N\$ 13000 is payable by the end of August for the following:
  - A non-refundable deposit of N\$ 6000
  - N\$ 7000 for stationery, reader usage, copy fees, workbook fees, photographs, 3 school shirts
- School fees will be less than N\$ 6500 per month, for 12 months of the year.
- Unfortunately, the school does not offer a discount for siblings. 5% discount is granted to those who pay the year's fee before the end of January.
- School fees include teaching and learning as well as swimming at Dolphins during the summer months and a private motor skill programme.

**May I defer acceptance offered for Grade R, to the following year for Grade 1?**

- The position offered is for Grade R only.
- Grade R is the intake year to St Paul's Primary School.
- Only two to four Grade 1 places for children outside of the Grade R program will be available for the following year.
- Applicants are re-evaluated for Grade 1 and selected on merit.

### May my child be exempt from Religious Education?

- While the staff of St Paul's respect the faith, denominations and viewpoints of others, we are a Catholic-owned, Christ-centred school.
- The scholars of St Paul's are not exempt from attending Religious Education lessons, Chapel or other programmes introduced into the school.
- Visible religious and cultural adornments may not be worn with the school uniform.

### Is there a graduation ceremony for Grade R before they go to Grade 1?

- Grade R forms part of the foundation phase of St Paul's and leads into Grade 1 without a graduation ceremony.
- A formal farewell ceremony is held at the end of Grade 6, before scholars transition to the Middle School for Grade 7.

### What is the Grade R uniform?

- Grade R will wear the St Paul's Primary School uniform, obtainable from OTB.
- The only exceptions being that Grade R will wear:
  - a light blue St Paul's Grade R T-shirt and not the St Paul's Primary white golf shirt.
- The Uniform and Grooming Policy of the Primary School is applicable to Grade R scholars.



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