

The History of our School

The first Catholic School in George was founded in 1843 by Rev. Fr. A Devereux and consisted of 30 pupils. In 1895 six Holy Cross sisters came to George to take over the running of this school and to open a boarding school and high school. This school became known as St. Joseph's Convent and later its name was changed to Holy Cross Convent.

Boarding School

The first boarder was received in 1895 and by 1920 there were over 100 boarders coming not only from the surrounding districts, but also from Cape Town, Johannesburg, South West Africa, Rhodesia, Kenya and the Congo. The boarding establishment continued for 93 years and was gradually phased out. It closed in 1988 with the last Std 5. boarders.

High School

The oldest part of the Convent High School was built before 1900. In 1902 the second wing was added. Finally the wing adjoining the Church was completed in 1920. From the beginning it was a private school and was staffed mostly by Sisters. It was an English medium school and soon acquired a reputation far afield as a school which "provided an excellent education, training pupils with meticulous care." In 1968 the Holy Cross authorities decided that, because of the lack of religious personnel and the lack of funds to pay secular teachers, they could no longer staff the Convent High School. It was closed after serving the people of George for 73 years.

HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Holy Cross Primary School was housed in the original building in Hibernia Street until 1968 when it moved up to the High School buildings. In 1902 there were 100 pupils from Substandard A to Standard 5. In 1920 it was recognised as a full grant Government school up to Std. 5 It then had 154 pupils and five subsidised teaching posts. In the 1930's the primary pupils numbered up to 230 and it was a dual medium school. There were 14 classes and this was made possible by the number of Sisters teaching. After World War 2, due to lack of Sisters from Europe and a drop in South African girls joining the Sisterhood, it became necessary to cut back. In 1972 the school became an English medium school with 7 classes and five teachers. In 1991 our first male teacher was employed!! In 1995, we had our Centenary Celebration as the Holy Cross Convent. Sadly, at the end of 1995 the last of the Holy Cross Sisters retired from teaching and by March 1996 they had all left George.

Current History

Today we have just over 420 pupils and 38 personnel which includes educators and non-educators. The historic 'Convent' Building is kept in constant repair and the grounds, described as "a haven of peace under the ancient oaks and against the background of George Peak", are still maintained. The oaks have gone, the garden of remembrance had to give way to the development of the town, but the tennis courts first built at the beginning of the century continue in constant use. A half Olympic size swimming pool was built In 1986.

The first computer centre was equipped in 1989 and this has recently been updated to keep up with current education trends. Thousands of children have passed through the Primary School since the Holy Cross Sisters took over in 1895. Although it stretches back in history (and many former pupils call frequently to see again their "second home of childhood") it is very much a progressive school with great hopes and plans for the present and future in a changing South Africa.

1895

Our Aims

Our aim is to make Holy Cross Primary School a school, which has Christ as its leader and guide, Christian values as its way of life and where caring for others is paramount.

We Aim:

To educate the whole child through a well balanced development of the academic, physical, spiritual, cultural, emotional and social aspects of each pupil.

To encourage individuality, creativity and a positive attitude to life.

To develop strong character traits, leadership qualities and social responsibility to the South Africa of tomorrow.

HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL OFFERS YOUR CHILD:

Western Cape Education Department learning programmes

Religious Education forms the foundation of our Life Orientation programme.

All pupils receive two and a half hours of religious education per week. The R.E. programme has been developed from Catholic and Non-Catholic curricula in order to nurture Christian Values with a strong emphasis on Bible teaching.

Catholics attend mass once a week.

We have four school Masses (one per term) where we ask the Lord to bless our school. At the final Grade 7 Mass at the end of each year we ask a blessing on our Grade 7 pupils as they start their high school careers.

Children of non-Christian faiths do not have to take part in lessons but **MUST** attend.

Moral guidance

Healthy discipline leading to self-discipline

Individual care and attention

Monitored progress (four reports per year)

Computer literacy and computer aided education

A well stocked library and media centre

A spacious art studio

Music and choir

Chess

Class outings related to the educational programme

Sport: Co-ordinated by our Sports Administrator

Tennis

Athletics

Hockey

Netball

Cricket

Mini-Cricket

Swimming

Rugby

Ball Skills

Specialised sports coaching offered to pupils showing extra-ordinary potential/talent.

School Uniform Girls

Summer: (November to April)

Dark navy blazer with school badge
School tracksuit top (zipped) or Navy v-necked jersey
Navy tunic with school badge
Short-sleeved white shirt – open neck
White short socks
Black school shoes – lace-up or straps

Winter: (May to October)

Dark navy blazer with school badge
School tracksuit top (zipped) or Navy v-necked jersey
Navy tunic with school badge
Long / short sleeved white shirt with closed collar
School tie
Grey socks or black tights
Black school shoes – lace-up or strap
School rain jacket with embroidered badge

Sportswear	Tennis & Netball	Navy skort School sport shirt White ankle socks, white sports shoes
	Hockey	Navy skort School sport shirt Red socks with white stripe at the top Appropriate sports shoes Gum guard (compulsory)
	Swimming Athletics	School costume and red cap School sports shirt Navy skorts

The blazer is compulsory for the following occasions:

Monday for Assembly, Friday morning for Mass, Inter-denominational services at the end of every term and all official school outings.

NO NAIL POLISH, MAKE-UP OR JEWELLERY MAY BE WORN (Only “studs or sleepers” are allowed for the girls with pierced ears).

Hair To be worn off the face
Fringes not allowed to hang in eyes
Hair must be tied up when it reaches shoulder length
No gel allowed
Hair accessories—navy scrunchies, ribbons, hair bands, “Alice” bands and clips
No “fancy” hair styles
No tinting, dyeing, streaking or bleaching of hair will be tolerated

School Bag A navy blue book bag / satchel with divisions, NO brand names.
NO bags on wheels will be allowed.

Sports Bag A school sports bag, available from *Exocet*. No brand name bags allowed.

School Uniform Boys

Summer: (November to April)

Dark navy blazer with school badge
School tracksuit top (zipped) **or** navy v-necked jersey
Grey flannel shorts – Gr 7 may wear long trousers
Short-sleeved white shirt – open neck with badge on pocket
Grey socks
Black school shoes

Winter: (May to October)

Dark Navy Blazer with school badge
School tracksuit top (zipped) **or** navy v-necked jersey
Grey flannel long trousers
Long / short sleeved white shirt with closed collar and school badge on pocket
School tie
Grey socks
Black school shoes
School rain jacket with embroidered badge

Sportswear		
Cricket		School sport shirt Navy shorts Red socks with white stripe at the top White sports shoes
Tennis		School sport shirt Navy shorts Short white socks White sports shoes
Hockey		School sport shirt Navy shorts Red socks with white stripe at the top Appropriate sports shoes
Rugby		Gum guard (compulsory) School rugby jersey Navy shorts No shoes or boots required
Swimming		School costume and red cap
Athletics		School sports shirt and navy shorts

Hair

Short and Neat
#1 or #2 hair cuts not permitted
Hair must be worn off the collar
Hair not permitted to hang over ears
Fringes not allowed to hang in eyes
No "fancy" hair styles
No gel allowed
No tinting, dyeing, streaking or bleaching of hair will be tolerated

School Bag

A navy blue book bag / satchel with divisions, NO brand names.
NO bags on wheels will be allowed.

Sports Bag

A school sports bag, available from *Exocet*. NO brand name bags allowed.

General Information

SCHOOL HOURS

Grades 1 and 2	:	07:35 - 13:00
Grades 3 - 7	:	07:35 - 13:40 (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday) 07:35 - 13:00 (Tuesday and Friday)
Break	:	10:10 - 10:30 12:00 - 12:15
End of term	:	School closes at 10:30 on the last day of each term
Tuckshop	:	This is open during 1 st break each day and after school Mon - Thurs and is run by our moms.
Office Hours	:	Monday - Thursday 07:30 - 14:00 Friday 07:30 - 13:00

The Principal is available by appointment. This is necessary in order to correlate appointments. During the first 2 weeks of the 1st Term, Grade 1 pupils must be taken to and collected from their classroom.

Gate Times: The driveway gate opens at 06:45
The St. Mark's Square gate opens at 07:00
All gates close at 07:45
All gates open again at 12:45
St Marks Square Gate is closed at 14:00 for security reasons
All gates are monitored by CCTV

The school uniform stockists are **de Jagers Outfitters** and **Exocet**.

Various second hand school clothing is also obtainable from the School Uniform Shop which is open on a **Monday & Thursday from 13:00 to 14:00.**

The school swimming costume (which is compulsory) is only available from our Uniform Shop.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We have a vibrant FRC and the committee is elected in the first term at the Annual General Meeting. The committee consists of the school principal, elected parents and two educators democratically elected by the Staff.

The FRC is the fundraising body of the school. They have the interest of the school and therefore the interest of your child, at heart. Please support them in all their efforts. Parent participation and involvement has always been a strength of Holy Cross Primary School.

GOVERNING BODY

Members of the Governing Body are democratically elected every 3 years. Our Governing Body consists of 5 parent members, 2 educator members, 1 non-educator member, the principal, co-opted members according to expertise required, a representative of the Order of the Holy Cross and a representative of the Bishop.

SCHOOL FEES

School fees are determined at the Annual Budget Meeting.

MUSIC LESSONS

Piano, violin, guitar and recorder (practical and theory) are offered as an optional extra. Children wanting to take lessons are assessed by the music teacher prior to enrolment. Enrolment is subject to vacancies.

All Fees are payable strictly in advance – See enclosed fee structure

SCHOOL CHAPEL

We are very privileged to have our own Chapel. The pews and altar are from the original Convent Chapel used by the Holy Cross Sisters for many years. The Stations of the Cross are hand painted and are over 100 years old. For security reasons, the Chapel is open to visitors on request only.

General Information

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF CHILDREN

Parents may not use the staff parking area at any time

All children should be dropped off and collected from the garden gate in St. Mark's Square or at the driveway entrance in Meade Street.

Please refrain from

- Parking on the pavement

- Obstructing the driveway

- Obstructing the pedestrian crossing

- Parking in the area within the yellow lines and marked "R" – this is a stop-drop-drive area

Please do

- Obey all traffic rules

- Be courteous at all times

- Ensure that your children are punctual

ASSEMBLY / MORNING PRAYER

Assembly is held on a Monday. There is a Church service for Catholic children every week, for the whole school once a term and an Inter-denominational Service is held once a term. Attendance at these services is expected. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays all learners and educators assemble in the quad for morning prayers, which are opened and closed by making the Sign of the Cross. Children and staff recite three Catholic prayers once a week at assembly.

DRESS

Tracksuit top (zipped) may be worn in place of a blazer and jersey, except where official uniform is stipulated.

All items of clothing brought to school must be clearly marked, i.e. child's name. Boy's hair must be short and neat. Girls with hair longer than collar length should have it tied back with navy scrunchies, ribbons, "Alice" bands or clips.

GENERAL

Notices are sent home with the children periodically. Please respond promptly to these to assist the educators.

Monies sent to school must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the child's name, grade, class, amount enclosed and what the money is for.

Messages to be relayed to learners must be phoned to the secretary by first break. Parents are requested not to disturb classes while lessons are in progress. An appointment must be made to see the educator concerned after hours. Teaching/learning time is **PRIME TIME**.

LOST PROPERTY can be claimed from the relevant teacher between 13:40 – 14:00 daily. Any items not retrieved within two weeks are given to those less fortunate, or in case of school uniform to our School Shop for resale. It is of vital importance that all items of clothing are clearly marked, i.e. the child's name must be clearly written on the name tag. Marked items will be returned to the rightful owner.

School Rules

Playground

1st Bell: Move to lines.

2nd Bell: Silence.

No Running: Running on the cement is dangerous!

Keep our playground litter-free.

Do not play with sticks and stones.

Do not climb trees.

Ball games are only allowed on the tennis court.

Staff Car Park

Out of bounds to all pupils, unless accompanied by an adult.

Gates

Pupils must stand inside the school gates while waiting for lifts. No waiting on the pavement will be tolerated.

Passage

Out of bounds before school and at break times, except for the Grade 3 pupils (classroom next to pedestrian gate) and on rainy days.

Swimming

Children may not wander around the school in their swimming costumes.

No pupils may enter the pool area without a teacher.

Pupils must be fully dressed before leaving the school grounds.

Staffroom

No pupils may enter the staffroom at ANY time.

Go to the teacher on duty if you need assistance.

Assembly

No talking during assembly.

Cell phones

All cell phones are to handed in to Mrs. Mackenzie before the bell rings at 07:35.

All cell phones must be clearly marked with the pupil's name.

Vision Mission Statement

THE MISSION OF GOD—OUR MISSION

Being open to the compassionate and liberating love of God, our energies are freed for the task assigned to us.

In school and in the field of education of youth to whom we do not want to just impart knowledge. We would like to accompany youth in the search for found values, help them to live a lifestyle which counteracts life-threatening forces for our times. The destruction of creation and the manifold forms of injustice.

OUR VISION

THE VISION FOR HOLY CROSS SCHOOLS is therefore built on four basic assumptions:

The School is founded on the Person of Jesus Christ and enlightened by Gospel Values.

The School highlights the relevance of faith to life and contemporary culture.

The School is committed to the development of the whole person.

The School is embedded within the community of believers and shares the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church.

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT the school is founded on the person of Jesus Christ by Gospel and enlightened values WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL WHICH:

Has Christ as its guide, leader and teacher

Through our relationship with Jesus Christ, ensures that Gospel values are brought to life in our community

Provides experiences which help our learners to know God and to know about God

Emphasises the importance of Sacred Scripture, the Mass, the Sacraments and devotion to Mary

Promotes service rather than self interest

Is a living faith community

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT the school is committed to the development of the whole person WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL WHICH:

Will create an environment that will contribute to the intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual and social development of each learner.

Will encourage the development of each learner's full potential.

Provides a broad curriculum, suitable for all learners, which cultivates aesthetic and cultural as well as intellectual and physical element.

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT the School highlights the reverence of faith to life and contemporary culture and the environment.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL WHICH:

Develops, in the school community, an awareness of God and Jesus Christ by promoting and nurturing faith, knowledge of God and obedience to His commands.

Assists the learners to adapt to the changing world and their circumstances.

Reaches out to those poor in spiritual and material need.

Encourages the learner to live his/her faith on a daily basis and to find meaning in their own life experiences.

Ensures that the Gospel message influences all aspects of the curriculum.

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT the school is embedded within the community of believers and shares the evangelizing mission of the Church, WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL WHICH:

Spreads the Gospel to the learners through...

A child centered approach to education

A well structured RE Programme

Outreach programmes that expose them to the less fortunate

The healthy interaction of learners, educators and parents

A committed staff whose lives provide the learners with good role models

Has educators who see themselves as being called to a special ministry

Welcomes and involves parents as partners

Is a faith community that sees itself as part of the local church and the local community

Vision Mission Statement

OUR PRIORITIES

WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO DEVELOP GOALS AND STRATEGIES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

INTELLECTUAL

Well structured academic programme
Regular teacher development programmes
Excellent teaching aids e.g. computers
Regular testing and assessment
Setting of high goals
Exposure to cultural activities e.g. school shows, musical evenings, art exhibitions, public speaking
Creating environmental awareness through field trips
Lectures by experts in specific fields

PHYSICAL

Well structured physical education programmes
Good sporting facilities
Regular sport fixtures
Clean and healthy learning environment
Realistic life skills programme

EMOTIONAL

Nurture trust between educators, learners and parents
Open door policy with parents
Provide for special needs by remedial and enrichment programmes
Specialised counselling and intervention
Teaching skills in handling conflict
Recognition of achievements
Unity of purpose amongst educators

SPIRITUAL


Academic mass for the whole school to open and close each term
Educators who provide good role models
RE educators enrichment programmes and retreats
Well structured RE programmes
SU programmes and support of their camps
Well structured assemblies and classroom prayer

SOCIAL

Outreach programmes to the less fortunate
Interaction with other schools
Social outings
Participation in eisteddfod, choir evenings, bazaars, fundraisers and entrepreneurship
Promoting our vision / mission to the community

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School Song



My song shall rise with gladness
The name and fame to tell,
To hail the place I treasure
And where I love to dwell.
This spot so dear and cherished
To which my heart is grown,
My second home of childhood
The Holy Cross my own
The Holy Cross my own

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Fee Structure 2008

The South African School's Act permits the school to charge compulsory school fees, provided that the amount to be charged is agreed upon at the annual budget meeting. We are sure that parents would wish Holy Cross to continue to offer its current high standard of education (your reason for selecting our school) and therefore I submit the 2008 school fee structure for your information.

When paying by internet or bank deposit, please fax through proof of payment to the number below. The **child's surname** must be used as the reference. School fees brought to school must be in a clearly marked envelope, with the child's name and grade.

1. SCHOOL FEES:

	<u>NUMBER OF CHILDREN</u>		
	1	2	3+
TOTAL PER MONTH	660.00	1 320.00	1 980.00
TOTAL PER TERM			
1st Term (2 months)	1 320.00	2 640.00	3 960.00
2nd Term (3 months)	1 980.00	3 960.00	5 940.00
3rd Term (3 months)	1 980.00	3 960.00	5 940.00
4th Term (2 months)	1 320.00	2 640.00	3 960.00
TOTAL PER ANNUM	6 600.00	13 200.00	19 800.00

- NB: a) Monthly fees are calculated over a 10 month period i.e. February to November
b) Term fees are calculated over a 10 month period ie.

1st Term = 2 months
2nd Term = 3 months
3rd Term = 3 months
4th Term = 2 months

2. MUSIC FEES: (Piano)

Per pupil per term 600.00