



GLORIA BOTHA SCHOOL

For learners with intellectual disabilities

2026 PROSPECTUS



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1. History

Gloria Botha School was founded in 1990 in the Helderberg region by a group of dedicated parents. The school initially operated as a satellite of the Cheré Botha Centre in Bellville. The centre was established by Mrs. Gloria Botha after the birth of her daughter, Cheré, who was born with Down syndrome. Although Cheré passed away at a young age, the centre continued to grow and became the parent organization for several related schools in the Boland and surrounding areas.

In 2004, Gloria Botha School was registered with the Western Cape Department of Education as an independent school (Registration Number: 0111007560) and has since received a limited subsidy. With the support of the Richard Stuttaford Trust, Pinelands and Garden Cities, the school moved to its current premises in Somerset West in 2009. The school is recognized by the Department of Social Development as an NPO (033-432-NPO) and accredited by SARS as a Public Benefit Organization with Section 18A status (Registration Number: 18/11/13/4279), allowing South African donors to claim tax deductions for donations.

2. Mission and Vision

Mission:

We work together to create a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment in which each learner's well-being and acquisition of essential life skills are optimally promoted.

Vision:

We aim to develop confident, responsible individuals who can reach their full potential. We believe a happy child is a successful child. Every person with an intellectual disability is unique, experiences the same emotions as others, and can, with appropriate support, love, and teaching, develop into a self-sufficient individual.

School Motto: We shall overcome

3. Admission Requirements

- Applications are accepted for learners with developmental and intellectual delays who will benefit from the program. (Physical disabilities are unfortunately not accommodated.)
- Learners must be 7 years old in the year of admission.
- Learners may remain enrolled until the end of the year in which they turn 18.
- An interview with the principal, together with the parents, is mandatory.
- All learners must be toilet trained and demonstrate the potential to develop basic self-help skills.
- Learners must have the ability or potential to function in a group setting.
- Instruction is provided in Afrikaans and English.

Required documents:

- Completed application forms
- Clinic card
- Birth certificate
- Parent/guardian ID documents
- Psychological, psychiatric, speech, and/or occupational therapy reports (not older than 2 years)
- Most recent school report

4. Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure

The code of conduct promotes a culture of respect, safety, and positive learning.

Learners must:

- Attend school regularly and on time
- Respect others' right to learn
- Avoid disruptive behaviour
- Avoid bullying, fighting, and swearing
- Report all incidents of social misconduct immediately to staff
- Respect staff, fellow learners, and the school environment
- Avoid sexual misconduct

Disciplinary steps:

1. Learner addressed by the teacher
2. Assignment of task punishment (e.g., cleaning the classroom)
3. Exclusion from excursions
4. Letter to parents
5. Interview with the principal
6. Interview with principal and Governing Body

Factors considered:

- Emotional and intellectual level
- Home circumstances
- Medication and its effects

5. Classrooms

- Maximum 1 educator per 15 learners
- Teacher assistants provided where necessary
- Each classroom is equipped with appropriate learning resources and technology
- Our model supports individual attention and optimal development opportunities

6. Curriculum

We offer a differentiated and holistic curriculum tailored for learners with intellectual developmental challenges.

Curricular focus areas:

- Language
- Numeracy
- Practical life skills
- Art
- Gross motor skills

Developmental goals:

- Effective communication and social skills
- Emotional and behavioral regulation
- Cognitive development
- Fine and gross motor skills

Learners are evaluated twice a year and receive written progress reports via email.

7. Transport

No transport is provided by the school.

8. School Management

The school is managed by a Governing Body consisting of:

- Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Additional members
- Principal

Accounts are audited annually by a certified firm and presented at the Annual General Meeting.

9. School Fees

- Fees are payable in advance on the 1st of each month (January – November)
- School fees 2026: R2,600 per month / R28,600 per year
- 6% discount (R26,884) if the full year is paid before 1 February
- Outstanding payments may be subject to immediate collection
- One calendar month written notice is required for withdrawal
- No refunds for absences, illness, or crisis-related closures

Bank Details:

- Account Name: Gloria Botha School
- Bank: ABSA (Cheque Account)
- Account Number: 103 792 1021
- Branch Code: 632005
- Reference: Learner's name and surname

10. School Uniform

Learners must always wear the correct school uniform. All items must be clearly labelled.

Winter:

- School tracksuit with embroidered crest
- Red long-sleeve golf shirt with embroidered crest
- Sneakers

Summer:

- Dark blue Quantex shorts
- Red short-sleeve golf shirt with crest
- Sneakers or sandals

Orders: Sandra Smith – 083 450 4584

11. Illness, Medication, and Head Lice

- Learners must stay home if they have a contagious disease or are using antibiotics/prescription medication requiring rest or home recovery.
- No medication is kept on school premises.
- If medication must be administered during school hours, the appropriate form must be completed and submitted in advance.
- The school reserves the right to temporarily close if a contagious disease threatens the safety of learners and staff.
- Learners with head lice or nits may not attend school. Parents will be contacted to collect the learner. Return is allowed only when lice-free.

12. Absences

The Western Cape Department of Education visits the school quarterly to verify attendance. These visits are unannounced, so it is crucial that all absences are recorded accurately, on time, and with valid documentation.

Important guidelines:

- Email notification must be sent by 08:00 on the day of absence
- The reason for absence must be supported by valid documentation (e.g., doctor's certificate or medical appointment)
- Notifications like "my child will stay home today" are not accepted
- Unverified absences may result in subsidy loss
- If the Department visits and the learner is absent without valid reason, the management team will discuss financial implications with parents

13. School Hours

- Monday – Thursday: 08:00 – 13:00
- Friday: 08:00 – 12:00
- Gates open at 07:15 and close at 08:00 in the morning
- Late drop-off and pick-up fees apply

14. Tuck Shop

- Open every Friday
- Prices range from R2 to R20
- Purpose: Teach basic money management and responsibility

15. Entrepreneurs' Day

- Each class holds two Entrepreneurs' Days per year
- Learners bring 15 items to sell (e.g., pancakes, cookies, soft drinks)
- Profits are used for the class fund and annual outings (e.g., Waterworld)

16. Communication

- Parents are informed via message books, circulars, and WhatsApp class groups
- Communication with educators must go through the school office, not during school hours
- Contact details must always be kept up to date



*"The Lord gave me life
To live and embrace
I'll do it as you do
But at my own pace!"*