



DAINFERN
College

A Guide for
Grade 0 Parents
2021

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Letter from the Principal



Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to Dainfern College! It is a privilege to have you join the Dainfern College family as we journey together through these critical and formative school years.

Our vibrant, busy campus reflects a values-driven, happy community, engaged in the lives of our children as well as in the wider context, including our growing alumni body and our outreach partners.

Our school is a vibrant place where children explore and learn to develop their individual strengths within an ethos that respects others and values difference, striving for excellence in all areas. At Dainfern College children develop strong foundations of academics, physical literacy, art and culture within a curriculum that focuses on content, pedagogy, critical thinking, the efficient integration of Information Technology, and the dispositions that lay the foundations of competent, relevant and ethical citizens of the world.

This information guide has been drawn up for your convenience. We trust that you will find it useful. Further useful information, such as the School Charter, Code of Conduct and Communication Procedure, as well as our school policies, are all available on the Dainfern College website. Please download the Dainfern College app as it is a vital communication tool.

Wishing you a happy and fulfilling journey in the year and years that lie ahead!

Patti Blackhurst

Dainfern College Junior Preparatory Principal

Introduction to Dainfern College

Dainfern College is a visionary, co-educational school founded on a Christian ethos and traditional core values, catering for students from Grade 0000 to Grade 12. We are student-centred and holistic, and we strive for quality in all that we do. Our outstanding, committed teachers ensure that we have a strong and relevant academic focus. We have built a reputation for providing an innovative education, as well as opportunities for excellence in the sporting, cultural and outreach spheres locally, nationally and internationally.

Vision

“To be recognised as one of the leading educational institutions in the country.”

Mission

Dainfern College develops **skills for life** required to unlock unique personal potential and to nurture **creative thinkers** with the confidence to become **leaders** – through the provision of an innovative, relevant and quality education.

Core values: ‘FISHAR’

- **Fortitude:** Showing courage and resilience in the face of challenge.
- **Integrity:** Being honest and showing strong moral principles.
- **Self-discipline:** Correcting and regulating one’s own behaviour.
- **Humanity:** Showing compassion and consideration for others.
- **Accountability:** Taking responsibility for one’s choices and actions.
- **Respect:** Showing consideration for the feelings and rights of others.

Structure

Dainfern College operates as a non-profit company.

The **Board of Governors** is responsible for the governance of the school. It appoints the Principals and has a strategic and fiduciary responsibility. The **Finance Committee** is a sub-committee of the Board of Governors: it oversees the finances of the College and sets the fees on an annual basis.

The **College Executive Committee (CEC), comprising the College, Senior Preparatory and Junior Preparatory Principals and the Business Director**, is responsible for the educational leadership and operational management of the College.

The Dainfern College Parents' Association (PA) plays an active role at the College. The objectives of the Association are threefold: liaison, social interaction and fundraising. All parents are welcome to become a part of this body.

For further information contact the PA at pa@dainferncollege.co.za.

The Dainfern College Foundation is focused on being a positive driver of change both within Dainfern College as well as the broader education arena, by multiplying the impact of our education facility on the world around us.

The Foundation aims to raise funds for Dainfern College to ensure that the College remains at the forefront of independent education in South Africa. We have developed a fundraising strategy, known as the **Celebration Campaign**, to support three strategic areas that need financial support:

- **Our Community:** for positive impact on the lives of vulnerable and less fortunate children via feeding, education and other outreach initiatives.
- **Our Campus:** to enhance our facilities to be a benchmark, world-class reference over the long term.
- **Our Continuity:** to create a sustainable capital platform to fund ongoing projects from investment returns.

The Foundation is a separate registered trust with Public Benefit Organisation status and is managed by a Board of Trustees.

For further information or to contribute to one of the strategic areas, please contact Ms Lindokuhle Maluleke, our Foundation Manager and Director of Advancement, at lmaluleke@dainferncollege.co.za.

Round Square



Round Square is a world-wide association of more than 200 schools on six continents that share unique and ambitious goals. Students attending Round Square schools make strong commitments beyond academic excellence towards personal development and responsibility.

Dainfern College has been a Global member of Round Square since 2012, giving our students the opportunity to participate in conferences, community service, work projects, exchange programmes and adventuring experiences, which can, and often do, take students half way around the world. We have successfully hosted both a Regional Conference and an International Conference for the 12-14 year old age group, bringing together hundreds of students from all over the world.

IDEALS

As a proud Round Square School we take a holistic approach to education and inspire our students through experiential learning using the Round Square IDEALS of International Understanding, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership and Service. One of our deliberate intentions is to embrace Round Square in its totality and bring the IDEALS of Round Square to the core of all that we do. Not only does this benchmark us against the top schools in the world but it continues to expose our students and staff to international best practice.

DISCOVERIES

The Round Square Discovery Framework, linked through three phases of our school from Grade 0 to Grade 12, looks to create more ways of synthesising academic, skills-based, experiential and personal socio-emotional learning. This powerful combination is perfectly aligned with our own FISHAR value system (see page 3) and allows vital character-based education to take place. Our students are encouraged through Round Square to be the best individuals they can be by developing the essential Discoveries of Tenacity, Courage, Self-awareness, Compassion, Inventiveness, Sense of Responsibility, Teamwork Skills, Commitment to Sustainability, Inquisitiveness and Appreciation of Diversity.

For further information, please contact our Head of Round Square, Mrs Sonia Claassen (sclaassen@dainferncollege.co.za).

Community service

Community service is strongly encouraged throughout Dainfern College. We hold collection drives across the College throughout the year, including Easter, Winter Warmth and Christmas. We also participate in Mandela Day activities every year and support activities such as the CANSA Shavathon, CF Genes Day and so on.

In addition to these smaller projects, we concentrate our efforts on the following partnerships:

Cosmo City Crèches: This partnership was established in 2005 when the crèches were run from the informal settlement known as Zevenfontein. Both schools have grown from 20 children to over 75 children. Their facilities are very limited and they have no space to run around. We support them with equipment and run crèche days for each one once a term.

ReShomile (Diepsloot West Primary): This school has 1 400 students from Grade 0 to 7 and 31 teachers. The objective of our twinning initiative with ReShomile is one of academic upliftment and mutual benefit.

LEAP 4 School: The LEAP learning model is designed to support children from South Africa's township communities to become South Africa's leaders of the future. Each LEAP school is partnered by a neighbouring independent school to help provide the LEAP students with facilities such as science and computer laboratories. Dainfern College partners with the LEAP 4 School in the Diepsloot area, supporting them through a generous sharing of classroom, science laboratory and computer facilities, and constant working together to create opportunities for sharing and interacting across many areas of school life.

Community service in Grade 0

Grade 0 has an ongoing collection for Meals on Wheels, a charity that assists the aged with meals. Non-perishable food, such as tinned foods, rice, soups and pastas, are collected by the Grade 0s and then distributed to destitute pensioners. Please encourage your child to bring at least one item each week.

Organisation

Dainfern College caters for children from Grade 0000 to Grade 12, and is divided into four phases:

- Country Readiness Grade 0000 – Grade 00
- Junior Preparatory: Grade 0 – Grade 3
- Senior Preparatory: Grade 4 – Grade 7
- High School: Grade 8 – Grade 12

All students in the Preparatory School are divided into classes of mixed ability, with a maximum of 25 students per class, except in specific, exceptional circumstances, such as:

- In the event of a staff member's child joining the school;
- To replace a future leaver;
- Where a new family joins with three children and the other two children can be accommodated; or
- For consolidation/acceleration of students.

School Houses

The three Houses at Dainfern College are Griffin (Yellow), Kraken (Blue) and Phoenix (Red). Students are all allocated to Houses once they reach Grade 1 and siblings are always placed in the same House.

Dates to diarise for January 2021

First day of term

School for our Grade 0 children will start at **08h00 on Wednesday 13 January 2021**, and Grade 0 students need to report to their classrooms. Classes will be indicated to students at the Welcome Party in 2020.

Parent information evening

Our Grade 0 parents are invited to attend the Grade 0 information evening on **Thursday 14 January**. We will have two sessions - one at 17h00 and one at 18h00.

General information

Fun-filled learning through play and experience is the emphasis in Grade 0. Structure and routine are, however, key to the successful, smooth and efficient running of our school. We hope that the following guidelines will be beneficial to both you and your child.

School calendar

Dainfern College operates a **three-term** academic year. The Year calendar, with the dates of the school terms and holidays, can be found on our school smartphone app and on the school website. The live Term calendar is also to be found on the school app – please use this to sync with your own personal calendar. This will ensure your calendar is automatically updated with any additions or changes to school events.

NB. Parents are requested to arrange their holidays to coincide with official school holidays. Requests for students to miss school during term time will NOT be considered, except under exceptional circumstances.

School attendance

It is legally compulsory for children to attend school, and absence from school will not be condoned, unless the student is ill, there are exceptional circumstances requiring the absence, or if the absence has been occasioned by infectious/contagious diseases. **Any contagious diseases should immediately be reported to the school.**

A note from the parent is required to explain all absences. A doctor's certificate is required if a student is away from school for more than three days. A doctor's certificate is also required if a student misses a test or examination.

Lice: If a student has lice, he/she will not be allowed at school until such time as a clearance certificate from a clinic/doctor has been obtained.

School day

We run an extended programme in Grade 0 designed to provide a strong foundation of physical, social, cultural and academic opportunities for our students. These rich and varied experiences and exposures ensure sound, holistic development and growth within an integrated school day. Grade 0 students also have the option to participate in private extracurricular activities that take place on our school campus in the afternoons.

School hours

The Grade 0 day starts at 07h30 each day and ends at 13h30 from Monday to Thursday and at 13h00 on a Friday. There is a waiting class on Monday-Thursday until 14h00, at which time Aftercare commences. Aftercare starts promptly at 13h00 on Fridays. Grade 0 children who have not been collected once Aftercare commences are booked into Aftercare and charged accordingly.

Getting the day off to a happy start is vital if children are to settle well. Not only is a late drop-off or pick-up very disruptive to the class, but it also causes tremendous stress to the little latecomer, so we do ask you please to adhere to these times. Our morning programme is very important in Grade 0 and children who arrive after 07h30 miss out on this valuable area of development.

Encouraging independence

As difficult as it is for some children (and for some parents), the sooner children develop the confidence to walk in to the Grade 0 block by themselves in the morning, the better.

Parents may walk their children in to school for the first two weeks. After that, we ask that you adhere to the 'drop and go' outside the Junior Prep entrance, where our staff will be waiting to screen the children and ensure they get to their classrooms safely. We would be grateful if you would support our efforts to encourage them to take this important step - it might leave a lump in your throat, but watching how grown up and independent they feel is its own reward... really!

Aftercare/Holiday care

Outsourced Aftercare/Holiday Care is offered to Preparatory School students in the Grade 0 block and is available to Grade 0 students at the end of each school day as well as during most days of school holidays. Aftercare is independently run by Mrs Antoinette de Jong, who may be contacted at adejong@dainferncollege.co.za or on 082 887 7441.

Lunchboxes

Each school day includes two snack breaks – one at 09h30 and the second later in the day. Most parents are already in the routine of preparing a nutritious breakfast and sending a healthy snack to school. The benefit of healthy fuel is evidenced during the day so please support us by avoiding sweets and fizzy drinks.

Although our Grade 0s may not purchase from the College tuckshop themselves, parents may pre-order healthy snacks from the tuckshop for them via the links on the school app. These are then delivered to Grade 0 for the children.

Celebrations

Our College motto is 'Celebrate' so we love to recognise special occasions such as our students' birthdays. However, we do ask that you take note of the following guidelines:

Birthday rings: Our birthday children are made to feel very special on this important day. Please do not send any food or treats for the class, however, as we prefer to celebrate this occasion in other ways. Please book your 'birthday ring' date with your class teacher timeously to avoid disappointment. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Party invitations: Little people are very sensitive and we do not want any hurt feelings so please place invitations in the children's letter lockers instead of asking your child to hand them out, especially if you are not inviting the whole class.

Important events

It is very important to diarise important dates early in the year to ensure you are able to attend. These dates may be found in our Live calendar on the school smartphone app as well as in the Grade 0 newsletter, and are advertised well in advance. Children are particularly devastated if their mom or dad is the only parent not at the Grade 0 Family Day function.

Please look out for the following events:

- **Grade 0 Family Day**
- **Founders' Day**
- **Grade 0 Sports Day**
- **Grade 0 Big Walk**
- **Grade 0 Swimming Gala**
- **Grade 0 Celebration Concert**

Please be assured that the Swimming Gala and Sports Day are fun events. They are not competitive and all children are rewarded for participation.

Medical emergencies

It is essential that we are able to contact you should an emergency arise. Once you have received your Ed-admin parent log-in details, please check that all your details are correct or amend as necessary. The parent portal can be accessed from the school app and the school website.

Alternatively, please check with Mrs Wiandri Worth at your earliest opportunity to ensure these details are correct and notify her of any changes as they occur.

Nurse & ambulance service: Through a partnership with the Mediwell practice at Dainfern Square, we have a school nurse on campus each day until 16h00. We have also engaged with an emergency services provider for assistance in getting injured parties to hospital and getting access to treatment at the hospital without any unnecessary delays.

Emergency medicine: Should any student have a serious allergy or condition (such as asthma) and require emergency medicine to be kept at the school, this can be left with the class teacher or Mrs Antoinette de Jong in JP Reception. Teachers **must** be informed as to where emergency medicines can be sourced and a record of this fact needs to be kept on our student files. **A form needs to be completed giving specific teachers as well as the school nurse permission to administer this medication.** Allergies need to be highlighted on application forms to ensure they are entered on the student's file.

If your child has a medical condition or any extreme allergies, please ensure we are notified immediately.

Emergency/medical details: The details we have on file are those you supplied at the time you submitted your application to Dainfern College. In case of an emergency, it is essential that our records are up to date.

Over-the-counter medication: The school nurse has some basic over-the-counter medication available for the treatment of minor ailments. These may only be dispensed with permission from parents, and parents will be asked to complete a form that will be kept on record.

COVID-19: Parents and students are required to take careful note of the COVID-19 protocols in force at Dainfern College as outlined on pages 14-15, particularly with respect to quarantining and self-isolation.

Transport service

Dainfern College has engaged the services of a company called KVE-Driven which offers transport services for your children. KVE-Driven has an outstanding reputation and has been in the business of transporting children since 2006. The following areas are serviced by dedicated KVE-Driven transport: Dainfern and surrounding estates, Broadacres, Chartwell, Cedar Lakes, Craigavon, Fourways and Fourways Gardens, Helderfontein, Beverley, Lonehill, Paulshof, Bryanston, Pineslopes, Douglasdale, Witkoppen, Glenferness, Kyalami and Sandton.

For more information please contact the KVE-Driven office on 082 594 7528 or email them at info@kve-driven.co.za.

Traffic control

Speed limit: The speed limit on the College campus is **15km/h**.

One-way system: Between 06h30 and 08h00, and 12h30 and 14h30, a **one-way** system of traffic flow operates, the entrance being at the main gate and the exit at the top gate behind the JP block. At all other times, the top gate is locked, and all traffic enters and exits through the main gate.

Drop & drive: During peak hours, no parking is allowed alongside the Pool; outside the High School classrooms near the main Tuckshop; by the High School Quad or alongside the Grade 0 playground. These areas are used as 'Stop & drive' areas.

Parking: Should a parent need to park in the Junior Preparatory area, parking is available outside the Junior Preparatory/Grade 0 entrance. Parents are requested to park on the far side of the road so that the drop-off area is not obstructed. Please do not park or 'stop and drop' in the staff parking (shade ports) at any time. The staff bays are clearly marked.

Security

Security system: A security system, involving active guarding and strategic camera coverage of all access/egress control, is operational on campus at all times. The pedestrian gate near the Junior Prep Tuckshop is kept locked from 07h45 to 13h00 each day and after 14h30. When this gate is locked, parents and visitors must access the Junior Preparatory through the main JP entrance, where they will have to ring for access.

Security guards: Please treat the security guards with courtesy, should they need to stop you or inconvenience you in any way during the course of their duties. They have been empowered to search cars randomly if a need arises. Please remember: **they are there for your child's protection.**

Car access stickers: Two access stickers are allocated to each family upon enrolment. Cars not displaying access stickers on the windscreen will not be allowed into the College without signing in. Additional stickers are available from Reception.

Students leaving early: Should a student need to leave school early for a particular reason, approval needs to be gained from the relevant class teacher. A written note or email is required the day before. All students leaving early must be fetched by an adult who needs to report to the relevant Reception area. A 'Pass-out slip' needs to be completed and this has to be given to the guards at the gate.

Use of College facilities after hours: In order to prevent unauthorised persons from using and potentially abusing College facilities, all Dainfern College students and parents wishing to use our facilities over weekends, public holidays and school holidays are asked to produce some form of identification at the entrance gate to prove their association with Dainfern College.

Cashless campus

With the exception of money for Make & Bake, we do in Grade 0 try as far as possible to keep Dainfern College a cashless campus. From time to time, however, it is necessary to ask you to send in small amounts of money. To make sure we can keep track of payments, please always make sure that the exact amount requested is sent in a sealed envelope that is marked with your child's name

Anti-waste

Your children are large consumers of creative goodies and we enjoy encouraging their creativity. We therefore often need particular items, but have very little storage space, so will only collect these when needed and will let you know via the newsletter.

COVID-19 Protocol

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic caused considerable upheaval in all sectors of our society throughout 2020. Dainfern College was exceptionally fortunate in being able to put all the necessary measures in place - almost overnight - to ensure uninterrupted academic delivery to our students via a remote and online learning programme. The return to campus saw all safety measures put in place, both physically on the campus itself as well as in the adjusted daily processes and procedures, so as to prioritise the health and safety of all on campus while continuing the delivery of our world-class education programme.

COVID-19 Committee

Mr Brian Leahy, our College Operations Manager, heads up the COVID-19 Committee and, as the COVID-19 Officer, is responsible for ensuring that the College is compliant with all the necessary regulations in force at the time. Other members of the Committee include the College Executive as well as Communication, HR and Medical staff representatives.

Communication

A special 'COVID-19' section can be found on the College app with full details of all processes and procedures on campus as well as relevant communication. Please take time to familiarise yourself with the documents uploaded here.

2021 measures

While we hope for a far smoother year in 2021, it is widely accepted that the Coronavirus will be with us for some months to come. We have planned as far as possible our full holistic offer of academics, sports and cultural extramurals, leadership and service opportunities, but are well prepared to adjust these as necessary, depending on the status of lockdown and accompanying Government and Education regulations in place at the time. The situation remains fluid and your understanding that this is beyond the control of the College is appreciated.

Social distancing, the wearing of masks and frequent hand-washing/sanitisation remain in force across campus. Other measures depend on the prevailing level of lockdown as well as national regulations in place. Any changes are communicated to parents and students as necessary via email and the College app.

Campus inspection: The College passed the Department of Education inspection, which confirmed that all the necessary health and safety measures are in place.

Masks: All students are expected to wear masks (or well-fitting buffs) when on campus, except when eating or drinking and when participating in vigorous exercise. Masks must cover the mouth and nose at all times. Each student is also expected to have a spare mask available.

Morning screening: Parents of Junior and Senior Prep students are required to complete an online daily screening form per student each day (<https://bit.ly/DCPrepStudentScreeningForm>), while High School students answer screening questions in person. Students undergo temperature screening and hand sanitising on arrival each morning. This takes place at these screening points:

- **Junior Prep:** JP carpark
- **Senior Prep:** Pool area rain shelter
- **High School:** Main Reception

Visitors to campus: Parents are requested not to leave their cars when dropping or collecting their children and may not leave their cars to watch extramurals or campus events unless specifically invited to do so. All other visits to campus are by appointment only - visitors will then be screened by security staff on arrival.

Sanitisation: Hand sanitiser dispensers can be found across campus, including outside every classroom. Students, staff and visitors are expected to make regular use of these.

Social distancing: Unless otherwise notified, a 1,5m distance between people must be maintained on campus and 1m in the classroom. The campus has been demarcated accordingly.

Symptoms: Students exhibiting any symptoms will be sent to the school nurse for assessment. If COVID-19 is suspected, the parent will be requested to collect the student from the isolation area. Students may return to campus once a doctor has confirmed that there is no Coronavirus infection.

Students who test positive are required to self-isolate for a minimum of ten days and may also only return to campus after they have been cleared by a doctor. A letter to this effect from the doctor must be sent to the College.

Quarantine/self-isolation: All students who come into contact with someone who is confirmed to be positive for COVID-19 will only be allowed to return to campus ten days after exposure and must have been cleared by a doctor to confirm they are not displaying any symptoms. A remote academic programme will be made available to students who are required to self-isolate or go into quarantine.

Academics

Fun-filled learning defines Grade 0. Class teaching predominates, with specialist teachers for Afrikaans, isiZulu, Music, Media and Physical Education. Class teachers are responsible for the pastoral care of the students in their classes.

Academic offer

- Languages (English, Afrikaans & isiZulu)
- Life Skills
- Mathematics
- Media
- Music
- Physical Education

Academic support

The extended day allows class teachers to offer an enriched programme as well as providing children with important free play spaces. Academic support is offered to students in Grade 0 by external therapists who work on the College premises. A remedial therapist, a speech therapist and an occupational therapist comprise the academic support team. The cost of these additional therapies is for the parents' account and paid directly to the therapist.

Academic promotion

In order to be promoted from one grade to another, students need to have met minimum academic criteria. Should a student not do so, he/she will be required to repeat the grade in order to consolidate. This will be done on recommendation by the teacher and principal, and in consultation with the parents.

Reporting & assessments

We issue formal progress reports at the end of the second and third terms. Towards the end of the first term, when we have got to know each child well enough to make a considered assessment, we invite parents to come in for a private meeting to discuss individual progress. Please be assured though, that if we have any concerns at all, we will be in touch with you immediately.

Please remember that we need a copy of your child's last school report as well as any therapist reports or assessments that your child might have had.

Parent consultations

Parent/teacher consultations are held at the end of Terms 1 and 2 and by appointment in Term 3 to discuss your child's progress. Should parents have a concern about their child/ren's progress at any time, they are requested to set up individual interviews with the relevant teachers by leaving a message at Reception for the teacher, who will phone back and confirm a time. Alternatively, an email can be sent - email addresses can be found on our website.

Academic requirements

Stationery: The school has a preferred supplier who makes up stationery packs for Grade 0. These are issued to students at the Welcome Party.

You are also most welcome to source these items from an independent supplier.

Backpack: Grade 0 children use a small blue backpack as large bags do not fit into our lockers. Students will continue to use this in Grade 1. The backpack can be purchased from Sandpiper SA (sandpipersa@mweb.co.za).

The 'trolley type' cases are **not** allowed as they are detrimental to our students' spinal development and damage the tiles in the corridors.

Lockers: In Grade 0 these are situated in the classrooms.

Communication

App: The school smartphone app is an invaluable communication tool for parents. It contains a wealth of information including schedules, newsletters and events as well as staff details and calendars, and ensures you receive important notices from the school as soon as we notify you. It is available for free download from the iStore and Google Play Store.

Newsletters are available on our school app and are updated every second Wednesday. The newsletter contains pages that are relevant for specific sections of the school, so please take note of the Grade 0 page which contains important information and dates to diarise.

Parent portal: The Ed-admin parent portal contains specific parent and student details including contact details, health records, school reports and account information. Each parent is given a user name and password to access the parent portal via the Dainfern College website or the app.

Visiting and making appointments

We encourage all contact that supports your child's progress in any way at all and greatly enjoy visits from parents. You will appreciate though, that it is difficult, and often inappropriate, for us to meet with you in the classroom during the school day with a cluster of distracted children listening to every word!

To assure you of our full attention, we have found it works best if parents either contact Mrs Wiandri Worth to schedule a time when it is mutually convenient to meet or, alternatively, send an email and your teacher will follow up with you directly.

If you have any questions or concerns, your child's teacher should be the first port of call. When the teachers are in class, please feel free to contact Wiandri or Antoinette on 010 020 5457. They know EVERYTHING and everyone, as the children will soon tell you, and if they cannot help you, then they will gladly relay a message for you.

Remember to let teachers know if there are any changes at home. Even something minor such as dad going on a business trip may affect your child and we would like to be in a position to help ease the stress.

Communication from parents

To ensure any problems are sorted out as close to the source as possible, we request that you use the following route:

Class Teacher → Head of Grade 0 → Deputy Principal → Principal

Parental support

Class mothers: Each class has one or two 'class mothers' (or dads!) whose support is invaluable to us each year. The class mothers assist with the conveying of messages, organising of parent socials, assisting with school functions, and the collection and allocation of the TLC fund. We so appreciate the dedicated parents who volunteer for this very important role – thank you.

Conduct

Dainfern College has a positive approach to discipline, based on our core values of Respect, Self-Discipline and Accountability. 'Choice and Consequence' define our approach and our Code of Conduct - available on our website and via our app - underpins the ethos of the school.

Weekly activities

Make & Bake

On allocated Fridays, children take turns bringing healthy goodies or crafts to school to sell. This is not only an opportunity to enjoy time the previous afternoon baking or making with mom or dad, but also an opportunity to feel very important 'selling' to their friends the next day. The money raised is donated to our Foundation and goes towards outreach or other charitable initiatives. Please limit Make & Bake money to R5,00 in silver money. The objective is to encourage children to work with money: R5,00 facilitates this and the children are more than happy with their purchase. Please avoid using nuts or peanuts as there are often children with nut allergies.

Media Centre

Developing a love of reading is so important during this phase of your child's education. One of the best ways of doing this is to enjoy a nightly bedtime story with mom and dad. Children are encouraged to select a library book to read aloud at home with mom or dad each week when they visit the school Media Centre. This book needs to be returned every week and exchanged for a new one. It should be kept in your child's library bag to protect it and ensure its safe return to the Media Centre - to guard against loss or damage we have a 'No bag, no book' policy.

Interest table

Children are encouraged to bring items and books related to the current inquiry at the beginning of the week.

Show & Tell

On allocated Fridays the children look forward to sharing items of interest with their friends. As we encourage the children to talk for as long as they need to, this takes time. The boys and girls are divided into two groups and the A and B Groups therefore bring 'Show & Tell' items on alternate weeks. Please encourage them to bring items of interest on their allocated day as opposed to toys. A guideline about what the children can share will be given.

Art work

The children's artwork is their personal, unique expression and effort and thus very important to them. Teachers do not do the work for the child and we value each child's unique product and discourage comparisons. Appropriate interest when they take it home would be so appreciated. **Important:** Try not to let your child see you throwing any art away when you have run out of storage space!

Physical education

Swimming

Children who are unable to swim will spend time in the training pool. Only competent swimmers will be allowed to swim in the big pool. If your child is not yet able to swim, PLEASE take him/her for extra swimming lessons. Regrettably, the teachers are unable to give individual swimming lessons to the children who are unable to swim during a class swimming lesson in which 25 children may be participating.

Debbie Armstrong gives swimming lessons at school for the parents' account – she can be contacted on 011 469 3169 or 082 337 8499.

Please pack a costume, towel, and cap for PE in summer. **The sun protection swimming shirt is not compulsory but highly recommended.**

Extracurricular activities

A wide range of sporting and cultural activities are integrated into the Grade 0-2 day. External service providers offer other activities at Grade 0 level, but these are not compulsory and are for parents' accounts. These activities commence at 13h45, at the end of the school day. Demonstration lessons are usually held during Week 2 of the first term so that children can get a feel for what is on offer; activities then commence from 3 February. Further details about these activities may be found on the school smartphone app.

Sporting and cultural activities

Ballet, Taste Buddies, IntroGolf, Karate, Playball, Rugger Kids, Soccer and private Cricket, Hockey, Swimming and Tennis coaching are available for the parents' account. Grade 0 students may also join the 'Singing Rascals' vocal group for students in Grades 0-3, taken by Mrs Kim Yon for parents' account. Please remember that all activities are dependent on the COVID-19 protocols in place.

Individual music

Dainfern College has a thriving Music Centre and private teachers are available at the school to teach a wide variety of disciplines (piano, voice, violin, flute, etc.). The cost of these lessons is for the parents' account. Enquiries and applications should be addressed to Mrs Nicole Pearce, our Music Centre coordinator, at npearce@dainferncollege.co.za.

School uniforms

Our school uniform is designed to be both practical and smart. Although allowances do have to be made for little people, it is important that they wear it with pride. Please ensure your children come to school with the appropriate Swimming kit in their bags when needed.

NOTE: The **new** PE kit, introduced in 2019, is also the Grade 0 uniform. Please ensure when you buy this that you get the new PE shirt **without a collar** and the matching shorts or skort, both made from a moisture-wicking fabric (and not the cotton or 'Quantec' fabrics of the old kit).

Please note that the Grade 0 uniform becomes the PE uniform from Grade 1.

Please ensure that all uniform items are clearly labelled – names, names, names – even in socks and shoes, please. Please check clothing regularly to see if your child has brought home someone else's belongings.

No hat, no play

A sun hat forms part of the school uniform and must be worn every day. As you know, young skins need protection. If your child comes to school without a hat, we will need to keep them in the shade. Since it is not much fun to play quietly in the shade while your friends are running around the playground at break, the children soon learn this lesson. However, we would be grateful if you would reinforce it at home.

All hats will have the children's names embroidered on the outside back. Little bodies look similar in uniform and the large hat-names help us to make sure they are in the right place at all times and that the hats are on the right heads.

Uniform suppliers

Uniforms are available from:

- **McCullagh & Bothwell** - this school uniform stockist can be found on the upper level of Fourways Crossing (Tel: 011 705 1070).
- **The College Shop:** Open from Monday to Friday from 07h15 to 08h00, and Monday to Thursday from 13h15 to 14h00. They have excellent stock of second-hand uniforms at good prices. The College Shop can be found opposite the main tuckshop of the College. Senior Prep and High School lost property is also kept here.

Appearance of students

All students are expected to comply with the uniform regulations and be neatly presented at all times.

Hair: Hair must be worn in a clean, neat and tidy manner and extremes in hairstyling, dyeing/highlighting of hair are not permitted.

- **Boys:** Hair must be neatly trimmed and not touch collars or ears. No gel is to be used.
- **Girls:** Hair must be neatly tied up once the length reaches the collar. Long fringes and loose pieces of hair must be clipped back neatly. Navy blue or white hair bands or school tartan scrunchies are required. Only school tartan or navy blue alice bands may be worn.

Shoes: Grade 0 children wear black or white tackies worn with short white socks.

Jewellery: No jewellery is allowed, except for Medic Alert discs, plain watches and religious emblems (to be worn discreetly). Girls may wear only gold or silver studs or sleepers in pierced ears (one per earlobe).

Gum: Chewing gum is not permitted at school.

Nails: Nails must be neatly trimmed. Nail polish may not be worn to school.

Sports uniforms: For Physical Education (PE), students wear their Grade 0 uniform which is the same as the PE uniform for the rest of the College: i.e. navy PE/sports shirt, navy sports shorts or skort and Dainfern College tracksuits.

House shirts are **NOT** required for Grade 0 students as InterHouse activities only start from Grade 1.

The public domain: Please note that if students wear their uniforms in public places, they are required to be in full school uniform and neatly presented. Otherwise they need to have changed into casual clothes.

Uniform requirements for Grade 0

Please mark all items clearly.

GRADE 0 BOYS & GIRLS	
All year	Dainfern College floppy hat with school logo (no peak caps) Dainfern College navy jersey with badge Dainfern College navy sleeveless jersey with badge (optional) Navy backpack from Sandpiper SA
Summer	Dainfern College navy collarless PE/sports shirt Dainfern College PE shorts or skort (optional for girls) Short white socks Black or white tackies
Winter	Dainfern College white long-sleeved shirt with school badge or summer shirt Dainfern College tracksuit Short white socks Black or white tackies Dainfern College padded jacket (optional) Dainfern College scarf (optional) Dainfern College beanie (optional - mornings only)
Physical Education	Daily Grade 0 uniform of PE shirt and PE shorts/skort Dainfern College tracksuit
Swimming	Dainfern College swimming costume (boys may choose from long 'jammies' or short 'speedo' costume) Dainfern College UV shirt (optional) Plain white swimming cap Own choice of Navy towel / Dainfern College towel / Swimming parka Slops to wear to the swimming pool (optional)

Full details of uniform requirements may be found on the College app and website.

We wish you and your family a very happy and successful association with Dainfern College.