

Information, Conditions, Rules & Regulations

CODE OF CONDUCT

Curious Minds is a Private International Pre-school and all children are welcome, however, parents of prospective pupils need to agree to abide by the schools Code of Conduct as well as the Terms and Conditions as per The Enrolment Form.

- **School Hours and Terms:**

School opens strictly at 07h00 and closes at 17h30. Please do not be early for drop-off or late for pick-up, it is a very long day for the children as well as staff.

07h00	School opens
07h00 – 08h30	Arrival and drop off Please do not be early for drop off, teachers are on duty from 07h00 Please drop children off between 07h00 and 08h30 thereby ensuring there is enough time to complete a full three-hour work cycle. Please be on time in the morning and in the afternoon. Late arrivals and early departures cause the child to miss part of the structured work cycle and disrupts the smooth running of the school.
11h30 – 12h30	Scheduled lunch times per class.
12h30	Pick up time for half day children. (Half day children eat lunch.)
02h00 – 03h00	Pick up time for three quarter day children. Late penalties will be charged to parents who are late to pick up their children. <u>R50 for every 15 minutes or part thereof.</u>
05h30	Full day children pick up time. School closes. Please do not pick children up later than 5:30, as this is when school closes. Late penalties will be charged for parents picking their children up late. <u>R50 for every 15minutes or part thereof.</u> This money is for the staff who are working overtime. Please note that picking your child up late from school causes extreme anxiety, and this needs to be avoided. If you are unavoidably delayed please phone the school. Please consider staff members who have other commitments.

Holiday Club may be offered in certain holidays during the first week. This is at our discretion and at an additional cost.

Curious Minds follows the four term inland public school terms. Please check your yearly date planner regularly; this is found in your child's communication book. School will close by 11h00 for December holidays.

- **Arrival and Departures:**

The staff cannot be responsible for any child who is not given into a caregiver's care upon arrival. Each child must be taken to his/her class teacher every morning, this ensures your child's safety and enables you to share information with the class teacher about the child. It is best to be loving but firm and make your departure as swift as possible. Attempts to coax the child into one last hug can often make matters worse and more traumatic for all parties.

We cannot allow your child to go home with anyone else if you have not informed us of this arrangement. The person will need to give us the correct password that you have provided us with and you will need to send a WhatsApp picture of the person who will be collecting your child to management.

- School fees:

Please remember fees are paid 12 months of the year; monthly, termly or annually in advance. For safety and security reasons we would like to limit the amount of cash kept on the property.

Please pay school fees by EFT as well as extra mural activities' fees.

It is at the discretion of the school management to suspend a child from school should there be a default on payment of school fees.

All legal costs incurred by Curious Minds when collecting outstanding fees will be for the parent's account.

- Notice:

In the event that your child is to be taken out of the school, a term's notice in writing is required. Failing to do so will render you liable for a full term's fees.

No notice will be accepted after 1st October.

- Banking details:

Curious Minds Stimulation Centre

FNB // Branch Code 251345 // Account 62435232963

- Grocery List/Supplies and Stationery Pack

We require a list of once off annual supplies in January or on your first day of admission.

Please mark all the supplies and hand to front desk/your class teacher to tick off.

A Stationery Pack is to be purchased for your first day in January or first day of admission.

You will be notified as to where you need to purchase it. Curious Minds may decide to levy a stationary/equipment fee, rather than requesting a pack to be purchased. Curious Minds will notify parents regarding this decision.

- Illness & Absence from school:

Please message your child's teacher or phone the school in case of absence.

Curious Minds reserves the right to decide whether a child may or may not attend school for health reasons.

For the protection of all children DO NOT SEND your child to school if she/he has fever, a bad cough, head lice, diarrhoea, vomited in the last 24 hours more than once or has an eye infection. A child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school and if on antibiotics he/she may only come back to school after 48 hours of taking antibiotics.

Please note that conditions such as rotavirus, gastro, chicken pox, measles, eye infections, coxsackie virus or any other contagious illness will require a clearance letter from a medical practitioner in order to return to school without danger of contamination. Please notify the school immediately should your child or anyone at home contract any of the contagious illnesses. **NO credit will be given for non-attendance due to illness or children taken out on holiday during school terms.**

- **Immunisations**

In terms of the National Health Norms and Standards, only children who have been vaccinated, or are in the process of their vaccinations, may be admitted to this school. A copy of the child's vaccination card is to be handed in with the enrolment forms.
NO JAB NO PLAY!

- **Medicine:**

All medication is to be handed to the teacher by the parent. Please DO NOT leave it in your child's bag. Please remember to collect your medication at the end of the day unless it is chronic medication or an Epipen. The required dosage and time schedule is to be discussed as well as written and signed for on the medication form. No medication will be administered for symptomatic relief at school unless we have contacted the parents, or if we cannot get hold of any of the child's contacts and the fever is above 38°C. In this case we will administer Nurofen, or Panado in the age appropriate dosage and we will record this on the medication register in your child's class for which you will be asked to sign.

- **Parking:**

Please be considerate and be sure to park in a manner that allows other parents to be able to park easily. To avoid traffic congestion, try to be as speedy as possible when dropping off and collecting children.

- **Meals:**

At Curious Minds, children are NEVER forced to eat, we will encourage a fussy eater to taste the food but they will never be forced to eat it.

We provide a cooked breakfast from 07h30 until 08h30, a morning snack, lunch and two afternoon snacks, one at 14h00 and another at 15h30 for full day children.

We take pride in our meals, and there is a seasonal rotation in the menu. Curious Minds varies their vegetables, starches and fruits constantly, providing an overall holistic approach to healthy eating. Lunch is outsourced because more variety can be provided with higher quality and adequate amounts, seconds are available for children who are hungry after finishing their first helping of food. The food menu is displayed on the notice board, and is updated constantly. There is also a copy of the menu pasted into the communication books so parents can check everyday what their child has eaten for snack and lunch. Parents are asked to not send any further food to school unless your child will not be able to eat the food we provide due to food intolerances, allergies and religious reasons. However, in the event that you do send extra food or need to send a lunchbox we ask that there is no junk food; like chips, sweets, fizzy cooldrink, chocolate, biscuits etc. These cause fighting amongst the children. These items will be confiscated and returned to you at the end of the week. We are a PEANUT free environment and we ask that you respect this at all times. Fresh cool filtered water is available for the children's bottles to be refilled.

There is no discount applicable if a child needs to bring his/her own food.

- **Allergies**

Parents must indicate any allergies clearly on the registration form and the parents must ensure that the teacher and management are informed.

- **Dressing Children for School:**

The children are very active and should wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for play. Children are encouraged to be independent and it must be easy for them to remove and put on their clothing. Please do not dress your little one in anything you do not want stained as we cannot always prevent this with eating, playing and creative activities. Curious Minds and its

staff will not be held responsible for damage to clothing. Please avoid necklaces, bracelets, bangles or clothing that could be mislaid or lost. Belts make toilet training or even toilet use for young children very difficult, please do not send children to school with belts. Please check your child's bag and clothing each day to ensure that all articles belong to him/her. Please make sure that all clothing is clearly marked with the child's name in clear lettering. No spiderman, superman, barney or similar outfits are permitted.

Please ALWAYS keep your children's nails SHORT and ROUND.

- **School Bags & Daily Supplies**

Children who are not yet potty trained need at least 4 nappies in their bag per day as well as wipes and bum cream to be used on your child only. An extra set of clothing (at least 3 sets if potty training), a plastic bag, something warm in case the weather changes, water/juice bottle, milk bottle (if required) and dummy if required). Please ensure that every item of clothing that comes to school is clearly labelled and marked. Please send your child to school with a reasonable sized school bag, that can fit into their locker every day. A sunhat, oversized t-shirt for art and sunblock is to be left at school, all clearly labelled. NO HAT NO PLAY!

- **Safety and security:**

Never leave children or valuables unattended in the car or parking lot.

Make sure to close the pedestrian gate and front door behind you when entering the school. Pin numbers for the pedestrian gate and front door are changed regularly and will be sent to you.

Be aware of REMOTE JAMMING in the parking a lot, always be vigilant and aware!!!

All parents are requested to please NEVER turn across the solid white line in Justice Mohamed Street. Please for your safety turn at a legal turning place i.e. a robot and go around the block if necessary. This is a condition by which the school has to comply with, by order of the traffic department. Crossing the white line will result in a R200 penalty.

- **CCTV**

For the protection of the school and children, as well as staff training, we have an eight-camera system, most of the school areas are covered. The recordings are kept for approximately 5 days.

- **Attendance register:**

All children must be signed in and out daily on the Ipad at reception. This is the parent's responsibility. A daily class register is still taken by the class teacher as well as by the Aftercare Manager.

- **Mutual Respect:**

Curious Minds will not tolerate staff being spoken to in an abusive or threatening manner by parents or children. Such behaviour may result in termination of the contract and immediate removal of the child from Curious Minds.

Please first discuss any areas of discontent with your class teacher, should a solution not be found, please escalate this to the school managers and only thereafter to the owners/principal.

- **Personal Belongings:**

Every item of clothing, including shoes, accessories, bottles, lunch boxes, bags, dummies must be clearly labelled; Curious Minds and its staff cannot be held responsible for the loss of items. Children may not bring toys from home as the staff cannot be held responsible for these items or the conflict and tears they cause.

Please check the LOST PROPERTY box regularly for any lost items.

- **Extramural activities:**

These activities are offered on the school property except for swimming, where children are transported by the swimming school. Curious Minds offers a variety of outsourced activities. Music by Bee Sharp Beetles and Computers by Stimuzone, take place once a week and are included in the school fees. Children from the Honeybees participate in Computers. We also have Pottery, Kinder Gym, Playball, Swimming, Ballet, Soccerstars, Dance Mouse, Language and Cooking. These activities run independently, they raise their own invoices and collect their own money. Payment must be made to them electronically and autonomously. Please keep abreast of your payments as outstanding accounts place Curious Minds in a difficult position. Curious Minds will not be held responsible for any extra mural activity payments. Please ensure that they are paid directly by EFT into the correct bank account and NOT to the school.

- **Outreach**

At certain times of the year we reach out to the less privileged and people or animals in need. Parent participation is greatly appreciated and contributions in big groups go a long way. Our main outreach is the Children Cancer Foundation CHOC for which we do Christmas Presents for the children and in September we sell the ribbons for cancer. We do a collection of animal food for a shelter of our choice during our PET THEME.

- **Outings = Innings/Puppet Shows/Educational Shows:**

This is the term used to describe interesting talks and educational shows, presented by performers to the children every term. Parents will be informed quarterly of all outings, for which payment is charged. It is also on the monthly planner which is pasted into your child's communication book at the beginning of every month. If the outing is happening off the school premises, a consent form will be handed out and needs to be returned to the class teacher.

- **Animal feeders:**

We at Curious Minds are very proud of the pets we have in our care. As part of our Montessori approach, we include the children in the responsibility of the daily care of the animals and ask that they bring a bit of food to feed our pets. A duty allocation list is posted monthly, whereby all the children get the opportunity to help feed and care for the animals. Be sure to diarize these important dates. The rabbits may be fed carrots, lettuce, apples, oranges, spinach etc. It is a special and highly enjoyable experience for the children.

- **Incidents:**

A log book is kept of all accidents that occurred during the school day. This book is on the front desk and clearly marked. Your child's teacher/aftercare manager will inform you if any incident occurred during the day, whereby you should sign in the incident book.

In the event of a serious incident, the school reserves the right to obtain medical assistance from any medical doctor available, having of course also attempted to contact both parents and emergency contacts, as well as the nominated doctor provided. Any costs incurred due to the medical emergency, will be levied to your account.

If the incident requires, we will:

- Administer first aid if possible
- Call the ambulance or transport the child to the nearest hospital (Groenkloof Life)
- Call a parent or emergency contact
- Stay with injured child until a parent/help arrives.

Please ensure that incidents that happen at home are communicated to your teacher via your communication book.

- **Parental involvement**

- Parental involvement is the most important part of a child's development. Please remember to send theme related items, an item starting with the letter sound of the week, tuckshop money on Friday, old fruit and veg when it's your child's turn to feed the animals or if, and when you have.
- Should your child have a disturbed night or is upset in any way on any given day, please inform your class teacher so that we are able to deal with the situation in a sensitive manner.
- Should there be difficulties at home, please don't hesitate to inform the class teacher, so they are aware of any emotional disturbances or behaviour.
- Parents are welcome to make an appointment with the class teacher or principal, at anytime to discuss your child. Each child is very important, and we are happy to discuss anything in a comfortable environment, however, a scheduled appointment needs to be made as it is difficult to have long conversations during the morning drop-off.

- **Birthdays:**

- Curious Minds permits short birthday parties to be held at school.
- Prior arrangements need to be made with the child's class teacher.
- The birthday party will take place during morning snack time, after the creative activity and before first outdoor time.
- The parents and family of the child are welcome to attend the short party and take photographs.
- Parents are welcome to organise a jumping castle or clown. These activities will be made available to all the children at the school in a controlled fashion.

- **Progress reports:**

In the first term there will be a parent/teacher interview, in the 2nd term a hard copy report and in the 4th term a DVD progress report handed out to each child to provide a clear understanding of where that child is – our aim is school readiness and a well equipped child for the future. Should there be any areas where we feel your child needs some attention, we will refer you and your child to the appropriate support provider.

- **Communication Books**

Please ensure these are brought to school everyday. You are welcome to put any notes you need your teacher or the centre to be aware of. We will put all important communication in the books too. Please check your child's book daily. Updated menus as well as monthly planners will be pasted into these notebooks.

Your child is our highest priority during the school day, please follow these communication regulations for easy and understandable communication between you and the teacher:

- Minimal telephonic contact is made with teachers during the teaching day, unless in the case of an emergency.
- It is preferable that all communication must be made by email, to the manager or the class teacher, or in the communication books which your teacher checks daily.

- Parents may not contact teachers or management after school hours, unless in an emergency.
- In the case of emergencies, the parent is welcome to contact Curious Minds immediately.
- The parents must inform Curious Minds immediately of any changes to the contract or contact details.
- Newsletters will be sent via email monthly, as well as via WhatsApp Broadcast Message, from the class teacher or manager.
- To be able to receive a broadcast message please ensure you have all school numbers saved; these include your teacher, principal, school manager and aftercare manager.

- **Behaviour Management & Discipline**

Reinforcing acceptable behaviour is done by positive verbal praise and a behaviour chart in each classroom, managed by the class teacher. A time-out policy is used for inappropriate behaviour. If the behaviour is consistently unacceptable, it is at the teachers' and managers' discretion to contact the parents and arrange an appointment to discuss a positive path forward.

Parents will be responsible for any damages caused by the child to any of the fittings, fixtures or property of Curious Minds.

Please remember that some children bite, scratch, hit, spit and swear as they develop from toddlers to pre-schoolers. While we aim to prevent such incidents as far as possible, on occasion your child may become the 'victim' of such behaviour or even the aggressor. Please understand that we will discuss the incident with all parties concerned.

- **Potty training:**

As children show an interest in potty training, teachers partner with parents to help accomplish this important milestone with pride. A consistent approach and an encouraging environment are the keys to successful potty training, supporting both children and their families with care and concern. We can only do potty training TOGETHER with you as parents. Please refer to our **Potty Training Policy** (available on request) for more details. Remember to praise every effort and never to scold an accident! Children are usually ready to potty train in the summer of the year they turn 2 but usually closer to 2 and a half. Children are very seldom night dry before 4 years of age and even later with boys.

- **Toilets**

Please note that there are no toilet doors on any of the childrens bathrooms. This ensures that adults can monitor the children at all times. During scheduled toilet times for children over three years of age, the girls go first, and then the boys, the under threes have integrated toilet times. Children are encouraged to wait in the passage outside the toilet, if there is a child in the opposite gender already in the bathroom. This is overseen by the adult on duty. Children are encouraged to develop a positive sense of self and to also be sensitive regarding the dignity of other children. Please talk to your children about this aspect of school life.

- **Fundraising**

Please fill in the My School form and hand it in at school using Curious Minds Stimulation Centre as the beneficiary,

Once a year we charge an Equipment Levy (R200) however we often waive the levy with a fundraising event eg. A raffle draw. If you prefer to not take part in the fundraiser the levy will still be applicable.

- Outstanding Documents

If for whatsoever reason, the parents do not comply with the criteria and regulations by Curious Minds insofar as the registration and documentation of the child, Curious Minds may by means of written notice, require parents to withdraw or remove the child from the school with immediate effect.



RETURN FORM FOR AGREEMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT

We, _____ the Parent/s/Legal Guardian/s/Foster

Parent/s of _____(child's full name) have read the above-mentioned document and understand the content and agree to abide by the Curious Minds Code of Conduct and Rules & Regulations.

X

Parent/Legal Guardian

X

On Behalf of Curious Minds

X

Witness

X

Witness

