

THE FACTS ABOUT CORDWALLES PREPARATORY SCHOOL

- The school is an Anglican Church School founded by Bishop Samuel Baines in 1912.
- It is a member of the Independent Schools' Association of Southern Africa (ISASA) and as such enjoys the support and advantages of belonging to such a body.
- The school's land is owned by the Board of Governors.
- The Headmaster is responsible for every aspect of the administration of the school – academic, sport, structure, grounds etc. He also teaches Guidance to Pre-Primary to Grade 7 boys.
- The Board of Governors meets once a term on policy and strategy issues; there are sub committees for Finance, Grounds and Maintenance and Marketing which also meet termly
- The Board of Trustees of the Cordwalles Endowment Trust is an independent body that manages funds bequeathed to the School by various benefactors.
- Enrolment for 2002 was 234 boys and enrolment today has increased to 340 boys from Pre-Primary to Grade 7.
- There are between 70-80 boarders of all ages in a homely, comfortable boarding establishment. A House Manageress with first aid and vast nursing experience is in residence and a qualified Nursing Sister available in the afternoon.
- Casual boarding is welcomed, on a daily to termly basis (Subject to availability). Twenty-four hour security is provided.
- Cordwalles is a 'Hurt Free School'. Any form of hurtful behaviour or bullying is dealt with in the appropriate manner and a happy and caring atmosphere is encouraged throughout the school. Senior boys interact comfortably with juniors.
- The boys are encouraged to have healthy self-esteem and confidence.
- A harmonious, multi-cultural environment exists throughout the school.
- Teaching staff attend termly in-house development seminars to ensure they are always up to date with teaching trends and developments. The Staff also benefit from courses run throughout the year, motivational and personal development seminars and conferences which are offered all over the country.
- There is a balance between male and female teaching staff, both of whom are considered extremely important in the academic, cultural and sporting development of the boys.
- Some staff are housed on the property and assist with the administration of the Boarding Establishment and its weekend activities.

Academics

- Class sizes are between 18 and 24 boys ensuring individual tuition yet healthy competition between the boys.
- Boys are encouraged to be problem solvers and critical thinkers.
- The boys are exposed to excellent resources, teaching them to think laterally and make full use of all learning tools available via the Media and Information Technology Centres.
- Entrepreneurial programmes are in place in the Senior Primary.
- Computer studies are an integral part of the curriculum and the IT component of the school is being expanded and improved upon each year.
- The subjects offered include English, Afrikaans, isiZulu, Maths, Science, Social Science, Art and Design Technology, Physical Education, Computers, Speech and Drama, Music, Life Orientation and EMS.
- Specialist teachers teach Music, Art, Design Technology, Drama and IT.
- The curriculum is made relevant and exciting by exposing the boys to many outings.

Sport

- Sport is encouraged as an essential process in the physical, mental and social development of the boys.
- All the boys participate in sport and they all play in matches.
- 12 resident student masters who are competent sports coaches, are employed to assist with sport and ensure that all boys receive personal attention.
- Every team has its own coach and fixtures are arranged for all teams ensuring each boy gets a chance to play matches.
- Boys are taught to be sportsmen in every sense of the word.
- Visiting specialist coaches assist with the coaching of rugby, cricket, swimming, tennis and ball skills.
- The boys are encouraged to make the most of the school's grounds such as the forest and stream.
- There are four fields used for rugby, cricket, hockey and athletics during their respective seasons. Each is kept in excellent condition thanks to the school's Support Services Manager, his staff and the water provided by efficient boreholes and pop up sprinklers.
- The Pennington Pavilion, on Oval Field, is also the venue for many functions held through the year.
- A 25m heated swimming pool allows inter-school galas to be held at Cordwalles.

Spiritual

- Cordwalles is an Anglican Church School.
- As such, Cordwalles seeks to ground all of its activities in faith and prayer. While we welcome and respect boys from other religious traditions or from no religious tradition, the Chapel plays a central role in the school and it is compulsory for ALL the boys to attend assemblies, weekly Chapel services and any other Christian celebrations. Chapel services and School assemblies will include Christian scripture and prayer.
- However, no boy will ever be asked to say or do anything that is against his personal religion or beliefs. Twice a term boys from grades 4-7 attend a service of Holy Communion as part of their spiritual development. Boys are instructed in the significance of Holy Communion. However, although all must attend the service receiving the Sacrament is entirely voluntary and no boy may receive without the specific permission of a parent.
- Boys in the Boarding House will be helped and encouraged to end their day with prayer.
- All teaching in all lessons will reflect Christian values and beliefs, though boys will be encouraged to understand and respect other beliefs in a way appropriate to their age.
- Divinity lessons are taught to all the boys from Pre-Primary to Grade 7.

Cultural

- Drama is a compulsory subject for boys in Grades 3 to 7. An hour a week is dedicated to this subject for each class. Every boy in the school participates in several productions during the course of the year including the Pre-Primary and Junior Primary boys.
- Art and Technology form an integral part of the boys' problem solving techniques and skills development.
- Grade 7 boys participate in teams in a Go-Kart Race where they design, construct and race their Go-Karts.
- Boys from Grades 4 to 7 participate in a wide range of hobbies during Saturday school including environmental club, squash, fishing, model building, pottery, mountain biking, canoeing, golf, board games, fabric painting, scrap booking, computers, cooking, gum boot dancing, gospel singing, karaoke, flash theatre, cupcake making, string art etc
- Senior choirs support school functions and participate in inter-school festivals.

- Music is flourishing and approximately 160 boys are learning to play a range of musical instruments including the piano, guitar, drums, djembe drums, clarinet, saxophone, violin and ukulele
- Each boy in Grades 1 and 2 learns to play the recorder in class music time and in Grades 3 and 4 the recorder, violin, ukulele and guitar.
- All grades are exposed to at least one half-hour period of music each week.
- Soloists, violins, saxophones, ensembles, drum-line, rock band, guitar groups and djembe drum troupe play at major events.
- Boys are exposed to the rigours of performing through assemblies and music concerts.
- The progressive programme ‘Musikgarten’ is used for boys from Grade RR to Grade 3.
- The CAPS document is considered when planning all lessons from Pre-Primary to Grade 7.

Personal Growth

- A Leadership Course for all boys in Grades 6 and 7 is co-ordinated and guided by senior members of staff.
- Leadership is encouraged throughout the school with class monitors and servant leadership being promoted at every level.
- “Cordies Families” is a tutor system involving boys in Grades 1 to 7. Each “family” is headed up by Grade 7 boys with the assistance of a teacher. The aim is to develop community awareness, camaraderie amongst the boys and to learn to respond to different situations.
- A tutor system in the Boarding House is in place with each Boarder Master being assigned 4 to 6 boys.
- The Housemaster meets with all dorm captains every week.

Boys only education

- We believe that ‘boys only’ schools serve the best educational, sporting and cultural needs of our boys and this environment ensures that the boys are able to achieve personal excellence.
- We are able to provide our boys with opportunities to explore different roles and different pursuits without the fear of ridicule.
- We acknowledge that boys learn differently and at different paces which may impact negatively on the boys’ self esteem if educated together with the girls. Boys tend to be academically, socially and emotionally behind girls of the same age.
- Educating boys in a boys’ school means that many distracting factors are minimised so that our focus remains on the boys and their particular well being and personal excellence.
- Boys enjoy firm boundaries and structure and in a ‘boys only’ school we are able to provide this more consistently.
- The Staff at Cordwalles are experienced and knowledgeable in ‘boys only’ education.

Parents/teacher Relationship

- Cordwalles encourages open, two-way interaction between parents and teachers.
- Parent evenings for all grades are held regularly, occasionally involving a visiting speaker.
- The Parents’ Association exists not only as a fund raising body but also to facilitate communication between the school and parent body. Fund raising is devoted to specific projects each year.
- The system of Class Parents has been successfully implemented to assist class teachers and to develop good relationships between parents in the grade.
- Homework books are kept by each boy to ensure efficient communication between teachers and parents.
- Each term ‘The 100 Club’ social evening enables parents and teachers to meet in a relaxed environment at the Pennington Pavilion.

- Currently a newsletter is published every week to ensure close communication between the School and its Parent Body. This newsletter is sent out to the parents on the school App. It is also on the school's website www.cordwalles.co.za.

Social Responsibility

- The boys are reminded of those less fortunate than themselves with a social responsibility programme which includes:
- Projects whereby particular items are collected and donated to various organisations and charities.
- Support on a professional and resource basis for Ashdown Primary School in Edendale.
- Engaging in a project as a grade which is connected to classroom themes so that this reinforces the curriculum and instils awareness and empathy.
- Encourage boys to individually embark on a “67 minute” social responsibility.

Fees, scholarships and Bursaries

- A detailed fee structure is available from the Bursar and the Admissions Secretary.
- Fee increases have been kept to below 10% over the past several years. The school endeavours to keep school fee increases as low as possible.
- Bursaries are available for parents with genuine financial need. The funds for bursaries are obtained from the Cordwalles Endowment Trust Fund and are awarded by a subcommittee of the Board.
- Expressed as an average over the past five years, eight High School scholarships have been awarded to Cordwalles boys each year.
- The Jackson Foundation funds the fees of 1 or 2 boys per grade (from Grade 4 to Grade 7) from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. The boys are awarded these scholarships on merit.
- In partnership with Cordwalles, Safire Insurance funds the fees of 1 boy per grade (from Grade 4 to Grade 7) from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. The boys are awarded these scholarships on merit.

Cordies Families

The Cordies Families concept is one where boys build relationships in small groups, each made up of boys from Grades 1 to 7. There are two to three boys from each grade in every Cordies Family. All the boys in the family are from the same school house, as is the teacher assigned to the family. There are approximately twenty families. The teacher assigned to each family is there to lead the discussion and encourage each boy to participate in the discussion.

Some of the topics which have been discussed are:

Positive role models; Leadership and leaders; Self Discipline; Manners Maketh Man; Social Responsibility – 67 Minutes; Values/Core values; Human Rights; St George Certificates; Public Holidays; Hurt-Free Cordwalles; Rights and Responsibilities; Making a difference, Are you being the Best for the World? Count your blessings; Be outstanding and Excellence in a choice, What a Cordwalles Boy should be, Counselling, Mentors. Finding your passion, Table Manners, Arbor Day, Magic Moments, What I value in a Family? Environmental Issues, Grandparents, Cordwalles Pledge.

Some of the aims of the programme are as follows:

For the boys

1. Develop relationships with boys outside their grade.
2. To foster better understanding of one another.
3. To empathise with others.
4. To make others feel secure within the school.

5. To have the opportunities to lead in different areas.
6. To comfort others in need.
7. To feel part of the whole school.
8. To be exposed to different staff as role models.
9. To develop multiple points of contact within the support structures of the school.
10. To enhance the self esteem of each boy.
11. Develop camaraderie amongst the boys.

For the staff

1. Mentorship of pupils in the family.
2. Get to know boys in your house better.
3. Develop the Cordwalles family.
4. Get to know boys throughout the school.
5. Help staff to take a special interest in individual boys.
6. Develop community awareness.