

Stay home with confidence...

- Teach your children yourself, in your own home and environment
- Educate them according to your own religious and cultural traditions and beliefs
- Do so openly, legally and without unjustified interference from authorities
- Conserve this freedom for your grandchildren as well

Join the Pestalozzi Trust

What is the Pestalozzi Trust?

In the Pestalozzi Trust, thousands of South African homeschoolers work together to protect one another's freedom to homeschool. This means that they can educate their children at home lawfully and without unjustified interference.

At the same time they ensure this freedom also for their grandchildren.

Is the State interested in your child's home education

On 20th October 2005 Mr Siphosezwe Masango, MEC for education in Mpumalanga, addressed a meeting of what he termed "*fellow combatants*". It was a congress of the teachers' union SADTU.

Masango encouraged teachers to indoctrinate children to "*be properly formed and moulded to our revolutionary ideas*".

On 20th May 2004 Ms Mmule Madonsela, senior officials responsible for home education in Gauteng, told a meeting of homeschoolers in Johannesburg: "*Education is a political game*".

Her boss, Ms Tidimalo Nkotoe, stated in a Carte Blanche programme on 10th April 2004 that home education must be controlled because uniformity is the goal: "*We are gunning for the same critical outcomes. We are gunning for the same South African citizen.*"

In the past the Trust accepted that unlawful interference by overzealous officials was motivated by ignorance.

Explicit congress decisions by the governing party now reveal, however, that education is considered "*an in-*

Our Goal

In 1998 the Trust was established by a group of Christians to protect the rights and freedoms of all families to educate their children at home according to their own religious and/or philosophical convictions and cultural traditions.

Our task

a. Prevention of conflict

We prevent conflict between the authorities and *all* homeschoolers by promoting knowledge of home education and by negotiating better policy on home education.

b. Conflict resolution

We keep our members out of court by assisting member families who do get into conflict with the authorities. We strive to resolve conflict before a court case becomes necessary.

c. Defence

Should our members nevertheless have to appear in court, we carry the cost of a competent legal team and the necessary expert witnesses.

strument in the ideological battle".

In August 2012, the Minister of Education, referring to the law and policy on home education, announced in Parliament a "*...review of this law and policy with the view of providing for Home Education as part of the formal schooling system.*"

In 2013, three full-time posts were created in the Department of Basic Education for senior officials to develop policy. Since 2014, that led to the DBE and the nine provincial education departments holding several consultation meetings with

Who owns the Pestalozzi Trust?

The Pestalozzi Trust is a non-profit Trust governed by a Board of Trustees. It is funded from the fee that member families pay and a small number of unsolicited donations.

Funds may only be used to protect the freedom of education.

The financial statements of the Trust are audited annually by an independent auditing firm.

PLEASE NOTE: The Trust represents its members **ONLY** in conflicts with organs of the state. This means that it **CANNOT** represent its members in conflicts

- (i) between parents about custody of the children and their home education.
- (ii) with curriculum suppliers
- (iii) that have their origin in events that precede the commencement of membership.

representative homeschooling organisations, to consider the proposed policy.

Initially, the proposed policy contemplated homeschoolers being compelled to register with "accredited" curriculum suppliers. These suppliers would monitor and control home educators on behalf of the state.

However, the Pestalozzi Trust and homeschooling associations are implacably opposed to such a system and will continue to oppose it, also in the courts. Currently, the provision of any future policy is still in the balance.

Membership application - Legal Defense Fund for Home Education

(The Pestalozzi Trust will treat this information with absolute confidentiality)

EVERY question must be answered **IN FULL** by parent or legal guardian **using black ink.**

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY.

1.Father: Title	<input type="text"/>	Names	<input type="text"/>	Mother: Title	<input type="text"/>	Names	<input type="text"/>
Surname	<input type="text"/>			Surname	<input type="text"/>		
Postal Address	<input style="height: 40px;" type="text"/>			ID/passport of father or custodial parent:	<input type="text"/>		
				Nearest police station	<input type="text"/>		
Postal Code	<input type="text"/>	Province	<input type="text"/>				
Phone: Home	(<input type="text"/>) <input type="text"/>	Cell1	<input type="text"/>		Email: <input type="text"/>		
Work	(<input type="text"/>) <input type="text"/>	Cell2	<input type="text"/>				
Language preference:	Afr <input type="checkbox"/>	Eng <input type="checkbox"/>	The curriculum, programme, or approach we use is:			<input type="text"/>	
We homeschool since			(date: ddm/yy)		We heard about the Trust from: <input type="text"/>		
2.Renewal Application (been a member previously) <input type="checkbox"/>				OR: New Application (never been a member) <input type="checkbox"/>			

3. Information on educators

Please provide the names of both parents, as well as the name of anyone else who provides education or supervision to your children on a regular basis. <i>Any person may contribute to the education of the child, as long as the education is provided in the CHILD'S OWN HOME.</i>		Education <small>(use abbreviation)</small>	Employment schedule	Work location	Teaching schedule	% of Teaching
		N school not completed 10 Std 10 D Diploma B Bachelor M Master Other (fill in)	Indicate the times of the day this person starts and stops working. <i>Remember to indicate a.m. and p.m. If none, put "NA".</i>	If this person is employed, is it in the home or out of the home?	Indicate the times of the day when this person will start and stop instruction. Include a.m. and p.m. hours.	What percentage of the teaching will this person do? <i>Column must total 100%</i>
First name	Surname			In	Out	
Father	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Mother	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Grandparent	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Other	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

4. Include information on all children you are planning to teach at home. Generally, we cannot protect your right to educate any children other than those who are educated in their own home. If any learners are not part of your family, please explain on a separate sheet.

Please list all minor learners who are or will be educated at home during the year. <small>(If child's surname differs from parent's, please indicate)</small>	Date of Birth	What is the legal relationship between each educator in the family and each child? B = Biological / Adoptive parent V = Legal guardian (appointed by a court) S = Step parent G = No legal relationship				
First Name	Surname	Dd/mm/yyyy	Father	Mother	Grandparent	Other
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	/ /	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	/ /	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	/ /	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	/ /	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

IMPORTANT: YOU MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING SIDE

Questions? Call us at (012) 330 1337

Office use only

Payment type and date	Date of postmark Date of arrival	Date accepted	Alliance / category
Fee & period	Entered into database	Accepted by	Membership #
QB date done	QB invoice no	Letter of Accept. Date	<input type="text"/>
		How How Date who	

5. Is there any time during traditional school hours (i.e. 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) when your learners will not be under the supervision of the parents/adults listed in Question 4 overleaf?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
6. If Yes, please explain. If another adult is providing the supervision, give his/her name, contact details, relationship to the child, and where the supervision will take place.			
7. Has any legal action been threatened or brought against your home education or anyone associated with it, or have you contacted or been contacted by any school or education official, social worker or other government official concerning your children, your home education, or absence from institutional school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8. If Yes, please describe the threat, legal action, or contact (by whom and when). Include copies of correspondence, legal proceedings, etc.			
9. Have you been investigated for or charged with child abuse, neglect, or any other related charges?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. If Yes, explain (on a separate sheet of paper if necessary) when the investigation occurred, if there was a finding of neglect or abuse, and if it has been fully resolved. Attach copies of any court documents.			
11. Do any of the children being educated at home have any special learning needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If Yes, we may be able to provide you with information that may be helpful.</i>			

BY SIGNING THIS APPLICATION WE AGREE TO:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Exercise diligence in teaching our children in a responsible way. | manner appropriate to the child's individual personality, age, maturity and stage of development. |
| 2. Direct the education of the children to the full development of all aspects of the personality of the individual child, including religious and cultural education and upbringing; respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms of others; respect for the law and legitimate authority; and responsible stewardship of the natural environment. | 4. Notify the Trust promptly of any threatened or actual legal communication received by us in relation to our home education. |
| 3. Guide, direct and secure the education of the children in a | 5. Co-operate fully in the defence of any legal action (threatened or otherwise) which may be brought against us in relation to the home education of our children. |
| | 6. Contribute to the Trust the amount appropriate to our category of membership. |

(Note: Both parents *must* sign, except in the case of single parents, where the custodial parent must sign.)

Signature <input type="text"/>	Date <input type="text"/>
Signature <input type="text"/>	Date <input type="text"/>

PLEASE NOTE:

- The Trust reserves the right to refuse any application without providing reasons.
- Individuals who operate small schools, cottages schools, or tutor centres cannot apply for standard family membership, and should apply for membership as a civil education institution (please use another application form, available from the Trust).
- You must submit a copy of your deposit or your stop order with your application. Membership commences on the first day of the month in which the Trust receives the fully completed and signed application form, as well as the payment, unless the applicant specifies a later date in writing.
- You will receive notification of approval of your application as well as a member's package. If we cannot approve your application we will return your payment. ***If you do not hear from us within six weeks after you sent in your application, please contact our office at admin@pestalozzi.org to inquire about the status of your application. NB: It does happen that faxes or e-mails or ordinary mail sometimes are not delivered for reasons unknown to anyone, even if your fax machine or e-mail shows it to have been sent/received. Please use registered mail if you send the application via ordinary mail. Please enquire at our office if you do not hear anything from us.***
- Membership is valid for a period of 12 months from the date of commencement (see above) unless a) the family should stop home education, in which case it ceases automatically; or b) the member discontinues the stop order or payment of fees, in which case it ceases with the last payment.

Categories of membership

Standard Membership. The membership fee is R1200 per family per annum. Families who join BEFORE they remove their children from school or within 3 months after that pay a discount fee of R1080. This discount also applies to families with children who have never been to school, if the family joins the Trust before 31 March of the year in which the child turns 7. The membership fee may be paid once-off or by stop order. Members remain on the fee level at which they join, even when there is an increase in the Trust membership fee, provided that they renew their membership on time.

Associate Membership. Associate membership is granted to non-homeschoolers who want to support the Trust, and to homeschoolers whose children are not yet or no longer of school-going age. The associate membership fee is R560 per annum. If a family joins as an Associate Member, the family joins as a Standard Member by 31 March of the year in which their eldest child turns 7, at a fee of R1080.

<p>Pestalozzi Trust (T6377/98) PO Box 12332, QUEENSWOOD, 0121 Tel: (012) 330 1337 Fax: (011) 507 5997 Web :www.pestalozzi.org E-mail: defensor@pestalozzi.org</p>	<p>Cheques, stop orders and deposits to: Pestalozzi Trust, ABSA Bank Hatfield, Account # 4048 112 677, Branch code 33-55-45 REFERENCE: Your name, surname and membership number (if available)</p>
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The Pestalozzi Trust undertakes:

During the time that your family is a member of the Pestalozzi Trust Legal Defence Fund for Home Education (the Fund), we undertake to:

- 1 Treat all information as confidential and use it solely to prepare for any potential legal defence in relation to your home education.
- 2 Exercise due diligence in administering all contributions by Members as an indivisible part of the Fund to defend, by the most appropriate means as determined by the Trustees, your right to home education against unlawful encroachment by the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of government.
- 3 Provide quality legal representation on any actual or threatened criminal proceedings brought against you in relation to your home education.
- 4 Pay all fees for attorneys and advocates appointed by the Trust, and court costs resulting from criminal proceedings brought against you in relation to home education.
- 5 Decline to assist in the defence of a Member or in an appeal against a decision and decline to continue to render assistance in a matter if, in the exclusive discretion of the Trustees, the likely result in regard to legal precedent or the cost will be detrimental to your interests or those of other Members.
- 6 Communicate with you regarding any information that will affect your home education.

How does the Trust work?

Research

Reliable, research based information on home education is essential to defend home education in the community and in the courts.

There are, already, many research results from other countries, but it must be supported by local research to confirm that the foreign results can be applied in South Africa.

For this reason, the Trust supports and promotes academic and other research according to its capacity. Since the Trust was established, several researchers who were supported by the Trust have completed theses at Masters' and Doctoral level.

Conflict management

The Trust's emergency number is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, for members with urgent problems. The office number is available for general enquiries from members and from the public.

Members make use of this service when the police, social workers or education officials arrive unannounced and demand entry to the family home.

In all cases the Trust has been able to assist the family in defusing the conflict without the matter escalating to court cases.

It is essential that members contact the Trust immediately when conflict arises.

Expanding influence

Ignorance of home education is its greatest enemy. For that reason it is a priority of the Trust to distribute reliable information about home education.

To Government. The Trust often submits written and oral presentations, affidavits, and testimony to Parliament, government commissions, courts and officials.

To the Media. By means of media statements and interviews the Trust contributes to newspaper reports, magazine articles, and radio and TV programmes on home education.

To the Public. By means of email the Trust distributes authoritative information in response to public enquiries.

Workshops. The Trust offers workshops on home education and legal aspects of home education country-wide, and provides speakers for conferences and expos.

Internet. The Trust's web page www.pestalozzi.org and the Facebook page of the Trust cast light on various aspects of home education in South Africa. The [tuisonderwys] discussion forum on the internet is accessible to anyone and provides a forum for fresh information, discussion and support for new homeschoolers and experienced ones alike.

Telephonic. The Trust also handles many telephonic enquiries from members and from the public.

Empowering members

The SA Constitution and common law places on parents the duty to protect the best interests of their children against unlawful interference, also by organs and officials of the state.

Experience shows, though, that parents can only protect the rights and freedoms of their children if they know what those rights and freedoms are, and when they are being threatened.

For this reason the Trust provides its members with information relating to home education, the legal aspects of home education, and the parents' duties, rights and freedoms.

The Trust also advises members on appropriate responses when the family's home education is threatened by state actions.

Our Trustees

Mr **Bouwe van der Eems** (Chairman and Treasurer), has an M.SC (Engineering) and runs www.sahomeschoolers.org. He home schooled all his children, and has been involved in the Trust for the past 15 years.

Mrs **Karin van Oostrum** (Manager) has been home schooling her own children for more than 25 years and has been managing the Pestalozzi Trust since its inception together with her late husband, Leendert van Oostrum. She advises many homeschoolers.

Mr **Henri Slabbert** is a retired school teacher with specialist qualifications in education management, and an experienced home schooler and home schooling leader.

Mr. **Shaun Green** is active in architecture and in the Association for Home Schooling, and his own children have received home education since birth.

Adv **Andre Williams** home schooled his own children, and has taken part in discussions with the authorities on home education policy.