

Mr Q. Kippen  
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06 December 2012

To:  
Mr Y. Salot (The Principal of Mount Edgecombe Private School)  
The Board of Directors

RE: Open letter to the Principal and Board of Directors of Mount Edgecombe Private School

Sir/ Madam

I would like to draw your attention the Department of Basic Education's – Quality Teaching and Learning Campaign. Although the focus is on government schools, the Mount Edgecombe Private School (MEPS) does follow the Department of Education's CAPS document.

<sup>1</sup>The DoE urges all relevant stakeholders to be involved in providing quality education. Stakeholders are also encouraged to be active role players ensuring the school is doing its best to provide quality education for learners.

We have been involved as parents for most parts and interacted with the school continuously since our son was enrolled in Grade R in 2011 at MEPS. Early in 2012 we sort assistance from a friend who is a qualified and experienced foundation phase educator in a government school to assess his level of development. It was found that some of the basic fine motor skills exercises were not properly or rather adequately given attention. This resulted in my son not being able to hold his pencil correctly or apply the basic skill required to write efficiently and effectively.

There were also a few other irregular developments found like pronunciation of some of his letters, the 'forceful' advancement in approaching the word-sets and the use or rather lack of basic teaching aids. When this was addressed with the 'chain of command' at the school it was not pleasantly received. It was not officially acknowledged in writing neither was there any feedback to us regarding our queries.

Based on our findings through our son's work and our interaction with the staff, we are concerned that this institution is not providing the quality education which for a private institution would be expected.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Basic Education – Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign

One will be expecting a higher standard and more superior quality of teaching and learning from this institution as their class sizes are much smaller ( $\pm 25$ ) than those of a government school. Receiving notice, that my son's development was no different to that of a government school learner but rather the teaching practice seemed more inferior. This is based on the number of learners per class and amount of attention given to each learner for their development.

Having tried to address certain issues with the principal, one of his responses was, 'if you are not happy with the school and how we do things then take your child somewhere else.' For an institution of this nature one would not expect such a response especially when you have tried to cooperate and be engaged with the school as parents.

This leaves one asking a number of questions regarding the focus of this institution especially when you are paying for a service and they cannot tell you what extra service they are offering.

Yours Sincerely  
Mr Q. Kippen  
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