

THE TROUTBECK SCHOOL



GRADES 0 TO 7 – MONTESSORI – BOARDING

DR. EDWIN DAVIES WELCOMES YOU TO:

THE TROUTBECK SCHOOL



School Director
Dr. Edwin Davies
(Edinburgh, London)

Come to Troutbeck for:

The highest standards of academic education within a Christian, Zimbabwean setting and culture. Our teachers start each day with a Christian devotional for the class to join in and learn from. English is the language of teaching, and Shona will be taught and used to give your child proficiency.

Fully equipped classroom and learning materials. Much of our equipment came with us from overseas and is augmented by teaching materials purchased in the UK. Our first Montessori classroom has been designed and built specifically for its stated purpose. Open-plan rooms are lined with child height shelving to form workstations.

A strictly maintained 1:12 teacher to child ratio in the class room. The teacher knows and understands your child personally including their strengths, weaknesses, character traits, likes and dislikes. The teacher will form a learning plan according to your child's needs to ensure strengths are enjoyed in the classroom and that other areas are not allowed to fall behind.

All of our teachers are university graduates who become Montessori teachers. Thus we are able to draw on our teachers for their specialized subject knowledge and experience, in addition to their teaching skills.

Preparedness for life approach. At Troutbeck we not only teach the academic subjects. We also provide tuition in sports a child can play for their whole life (long after school years are behind them). We teach each child “grace and courtesy”, conflict resolution, and the Christian values they will need during school and for the rest of their life

A “governess” and staff, fully responsible for the care and development of your child out of academic teaching hours. For overseas parents we offer a communications package including regular private phone calls with your child and accompanied travel home to London Heathrow airport or O.R. Tambo Johannesburg airport.

Flexible exeat weekend. You may visit your child at any time during the term and you are not obliged to remove your child from school during term. For instance, if you are on a business trip in the east of the country it makes good sense to combine that with a trip to Troutbeck to visit you child and see their progress at school.

Registering for the Cambridge Primary syllabus and exam.

PRIMARY LEARNING

Academic curriculum

Our strong academic curriculum gives children a comprehensive, wide ranging and in-depth primary education. The primary academic subjects, which are fully supported by physical materials, equipment and books, include:

Mathematics

English: Grammar and Literature

Biology: Botany and Zoology

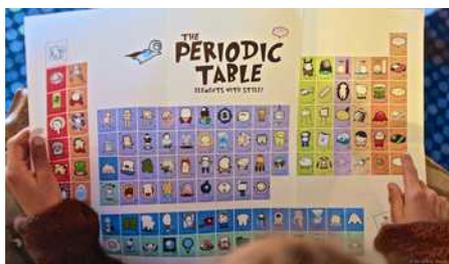
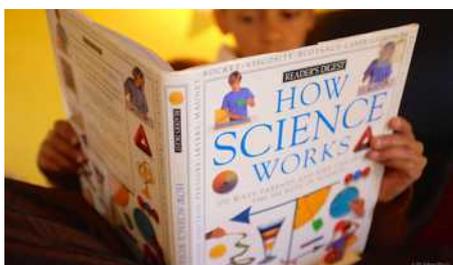
History

Chemistry

Geography: Physical and Cultural

Physics: Matter and Astronomy

Please note: there are no limits to academic learning here. When your child is ready for a higher level in any subject the coursework and materials are provided and introduced by their teacher. We too have heard the horror stories of parents told by school not to provide extra education to their child, and, of children acting up who are really just bored in class. At Troutbeck neither age nor grade are limits to learning progression. Naturally their teacher will ensure that all other subjects are maintained and progress accordingly with their age and ability.



PRIMARY LEARNING

The Montessori classroom

Our first classroom is a two level building comprising a lower level science learning area, kitchen, child sized bathroom, masonry stove and stairway up to the next level.

The whole building has been designed with learning in mind and the upper level is lined with shelving holding the materials and equipment currently in use by the class and teacher. Driven by the syllabus the teacher will change the content of the workstations to match the coursework as the class progresses though the curriculum.

Overlooking the lake our classrooms welcome children and encourage them to learn. They are warm, clean and appealing, with room to move around – as shown in our picture below.



PRIMARY LEARNING

Practical Life

Augmenting academic learning is our need to develop equally important aspects of the child's bodily growth and maturing mind. At Troutbeck we have an extensive Practical Life program to provide such mental and physical growth. Our curriculum provides activities based on:

- memory and perception
- motor skills and creativity
- food preparation and cooking
- fabric and crafts
- planting and gardening
- grace and courtesy

One might initially think that a topic such as fabric and crafts sounds a bit old-fashioned and even boring for today's fast-moving world, but let's think through the mental and physical skills that can be developed and applied outside of the academic setting.

Making a hand puppet or friendship bracelet

for example, develops motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Imagination needs to be stimulated and applied as patterns are created. Maths skills are put to the test through measuring and adding. Finally, the chance to create something fun or useful generates a sense of focus and concentration rather different to sitting in front of the television.

Thus, the above activities are fun and enjoyable in their own right but the important point is that they are all opportunities to see the child practice and apply both classroom learning and more fundamental skills and independence by doing and making real things.

Ultimately we are developing a child's sense of values, their independence, their ability to concentrate on a task, their ability to apply a logical sequence of steps through a recipe or instructions. They learn to care for themselves and value their surroundings, they enhance their own self-confidence and self-control.

PRIMARY LEARNING

Grace and Courtesy

Grace and Courtesy, also known as the social graces, are integral to the Montessori approach of teaching children to have behaviours which are civil, considerate and courteous to others, be that in school or the outside world. The outcome of explaining, developing, and practising the Christian values of Grace and Courtesy gives your child:

- real ways to demonstrate respect for other people
- the feedback of seeing others react to their positive, polite behaviour
- a feeling of self confidence when meeting and speaking with others
- positive feedback from those they are polite to
- an ability to make a positive contribution to their school environment

As children develop into very young adults and become more interested with the wider world and other cultures their own good behaviour, manners and beliefs help them to be successful as they travel or meet people different to themselves.

PRIMARY LEARNING

Table manners

At Troutbeck we teach and reinforce Grace & Courtesy in and out of the classroom via the teacher and governess. For example, we show how to set the table for dinner, with a table cloth, napkins, silverware all properly arranged around table mats. Learning which knife, fork or spoon to pick up first; how to eat properly; how to hold your knife and fork; then learning how to clean up and put away afterwards. In the countries we lived in prior to coming here the idea of having a maid to clean up everything is not economically possible as it still is in Zimbabwe. So to enable our children to not only survive but impress as they go overseas to study or to live we teach them what 'real life' and adulthood in westernised countries means!



PRIMARY LEARNING

Manners in the modern world

The Christian values we teach, including Grace and Courtesy, cannot be underestimated even in this modern and still changing world we live in today.

The ability to write a polite introductory letter or thank-you note has transformed into how to write a polite email, text message, WhatsApp note, or Facebook entry that:

- does not offend the recipient
- does not shame the sender
- does not demean another person inadvertently
- is not regretted long after it has been sent around the world

There are many ways in which the modern world can seem oblivious to good manners from a young person's perspective (just try watching the behaviours displayed in the soap operas on TV). However, as we know, good social and business relationships will form much of that adult's future success in life.

Learning about manners in other cultures (and even our own culture) helps a young student or young business person fit in with a new culture or country all the more easily, and ahead of their competitors!



Sport for Life

We set up Troutbeck to prepare all our children for their whole life ahead.

We see sport as an opportunity to provide children with an additional set of skills with which to enjoy their life – from childhood through to old age. Consequently, our focus is not “football, rugby and cricket” which unfortunately seem to cease to be enjoyed once schools ends. Rather, we want to train our children in activities such as golf, horse riding, tennis, cycling, swimming, fishing, and boating that are ageless in their appeal and moreover can be useful in a social or business setting.



BOARDING AT TROUTBECK



You are giving us your child to care for at Troutbeck all day, every day of the term. As well as all the academic and practical life learning that takes place here, the boarding experience is vitally important. In our eyes the time out of school lessons and in boarding is equivalent to the time spent with parents after a child comes home from a day school. Hence we know we have to provide a level of oversight, care, discipline, fun and Christian upbringing that would have otherwise taken place at home.

Mealtimes are important because they both provide nourishment for your child and they augment the practical life lessons through adherence to table manners and general good behaviour. Then some of the topics from the school room come up as questions during mealtimes. Thus it is vital that mealtimes come with responsible oversight in the form of a teacher and /or governess.

BOARDING AT TROUTBECK

Boarding Facilities

Our boarding houses comprise ensuite bedrooms each with 5 children and one adult care giver during the night.

This set up provides the best balance between the dormitory life of a typical school and the more personal family house and bedroom your child is likely coming from. Here children can almost feel 'at home' while at school, and know there is an adult for comfort and security at night.

At the same time the governess provides a level of care and attention that we feel meets the needs of the young children who are in our care at school.



Our custom-made bunk beds

BOARDING AT TROUTBECK

Meals

Food is important for growing and developing children. Too much of the wrong kind – well, having lived in America for 7 years we have seen the obesity epidemic. Too little food and hunger pangs give way to bad moods and poor attention in class.

We give children five formal meal times each day: breakfast, tenses (like elevenses only earlier), lunch, threes, and dinner. In addition healthy snacks are always available in the Montessori classroom.

Shown here are some actual meals from our kitchen. Having lived in and visited different countries we eat European dishes and enjoy curries, Vietnamese, and Thai food in addition to making home made pies, cakes and desserts.

We take the effort to provide our children with exposure to world cuisine and its enjoyment, for example how to use chopsticks or twirling spaghetti round your fork.



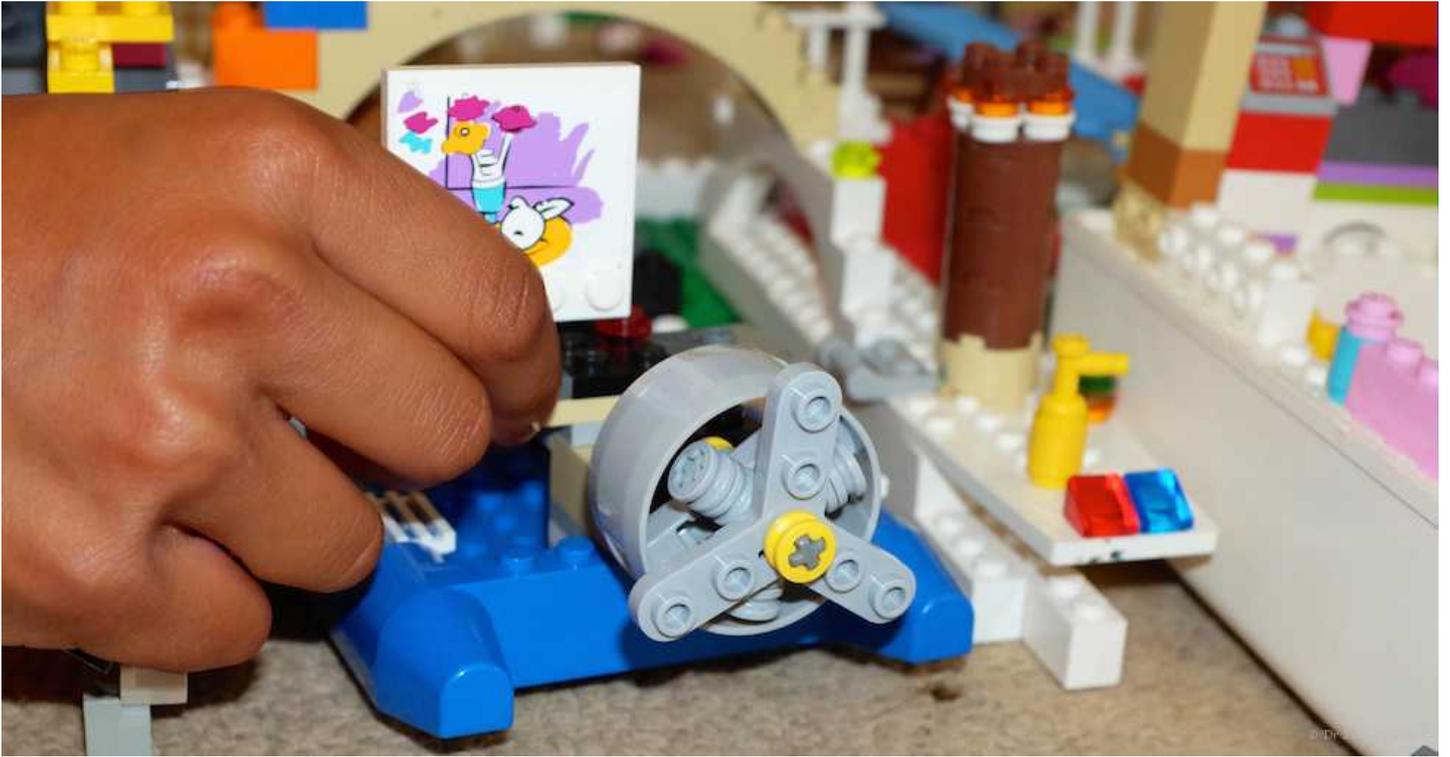


Chocolate fudge cake



Chicken Salad

BOARDING AT TROUTBECK



Activities

During the weekend we play inside or out, we cook, watch a movie or documentary, go for a longer walk on the estate or surrounding countryside, visit the National Park or any of the following:

- We go to Claremont golf course for lesson and lunch
- Fishing on the lake at Troutbeck
- Go on a nature and wildlife walk at Rupurara
- Go boating on the lake at Troutbeck
- Visit Worlds View and walk up the hill for an even better view
- Swim at Troutbeck Hotel

- Go horse riding
- Camp out on the Estate
- Enjoy some quieter time doing arts and crafts
- Take part in bible studies and learning

Children can join us in baking and learning to ice decorations on a birthday cake ready for their classmate in the week ahead.

Montessori encourages full participation by children in activities using equipment or tools that are real. Fake, pretend or kiddie toys are not used in the Montessori setting. We ourselves found this a little unsettling in the first instance. For example seeing your own child using a pair of scissors or a knife for the first time can feel like an act of faith. However the sense responsibility this builds in children cannot be matched with plastic items. You will be surprised and pleased to see what your child can do when they come home.



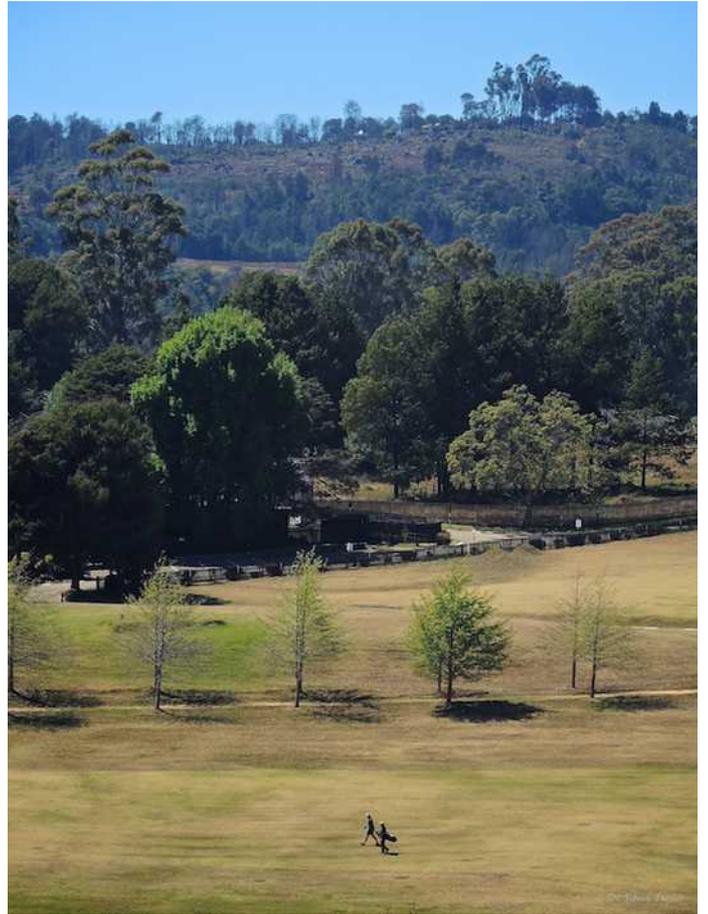
VISITING TROUTBECK

To Visit Us

The Troutbeck School is set in the mountains overlooking the lakes of the renowned golfing resort of Troutbeck Hotel.

The Troutbeck School is located on 52 hectares (129 acres) of unspoilt slopes with many rare and indigenous local flora and fauna.

See us on this picture at the tall trees on the hilltop. The view back down is even better!



To reach us by car take the “SWIFT” turn to the right 1 km after the hotel and follow the sign posts to the school. Due to the dust road we firmly recommend using a 4×4 vehicle for the climb up to the school itself. In the rainy season be sure you know how to engage four wheel drive as any rain water on the clay road surface makes the drive a bit more challenging. Feel free to give us a call at any time on your journey.

ADMISSION TO TROUTBECK

The admission process



To apply to Troutbeck please complete our application form.

1. You can find the form on the school website www.thetroutbeckschool.com - go to 'Questions & Answers and the 'Admissions' page where you find a link a download the file.
2. Alternatively email us (primary@thetroutbeckschool.com) and we will send you the file.

Complete all the details then scan it and email back to us.

To secure a place for your child once they have been accepted, please pay the fees for the term ahead within 14 calendar days of receiving your acceptance email.

Once the initial fees have been paid the subsequent termly fees are payable 2 weeks in advance.

Please contact us for details of the termly fees, desk fee, uniforms, and sports fees.

CONTACTING TROUTBECK

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