



The courtyard in the senior phase building.

A school where remarkable things happen

It aims to provide support and quality education to learners

The Western Cape Government is committed to ensuring that all children with special needs and disabilities receive an education that allows them to achieve their full potential. The new facilities at the Cheré Botha LSEN (Learners with Special Educative Needs) School in Bellville, led by a dedicated team of teachers and support staff, has provided many with a chance. And they already feel at home.

After being taught in temporary facilities in Stikland for several years whilst construction was under way, learners were delighted to finally move into their new school in January 2018. The school provides top-quality teaching for learners diagnosed with severe intellectual disability (SID) and autism spectrum

disorder (ASD). It makes provision for 165 SID learners and 130 ASD learners mainly from the northern suburbs of Cape Town.

“We, as teachers, choose to work here. Parents simply do not decide to have special needs children.”

Joey van der Westhuizen is the principal and leads a team of 29 teaching staff, including therapists, psychologists, nurses and general workers. She says the seven-year wait for a new school has made staff appreciate the

facilities even more. “The layout of the building caters for our needs, and careful provision was made so that learners feel at home.

“We, as teachers, choose to work here. Parents simply do not decide to have special needs children. Our secure facilities and access control measures mean that, when parents drop off their children, they have peace of mind that their children are safe. There is great appreciation all round for a space where we can provide support and quality education.”

The various teaching phase buildings are separated with courtyards. Each classroom is equipped with a holding room, a store room and a wash basin. There are many windows and open spaces. The project team of the Department of Transport and



New Cheré Botha LSEN School

The architecture of this school engages with the speculations of Fumihiko Maki on the nature of collective form. Maki's speculations focused on the design of authentic urban patterns which respond to the lifestyle, terrain, urban economies and contemporary challenges of societies and urban districts. For Maki, the character and coherence of villages which developed over long periods of time served as an exemplar of significant collective form at an urban scale.

Public Works worked hard with the school governing body and community steering committee to deliver a school that everyone can be proud of.

Features

- 29 classrooms.
- Specialised classrooms.
- Kitchen food store.
- Play equipment and bicycle store.
- General repairs store.
- Cleaner's store.
- Administration building.
- School hall.
- Closed circuit camera equipment.
- Swimming pool.
- Sports facilities.



The playground for foundation phase learners.



One of the specialised facilities.



The school hall.



The ablution facility.