



Provincial Winner

Excellence in Primary School Teaching

Name: Domé Swart

School: Kasselsvlei Primary School, Kasselsvlei,
Bellville South

District: Metro North

Ms Domé Swart, a dedicated Foundation Phase teacher from the Metro North District, embodies the essence of what it means to be an exceptional teacher. Teaching a class of 50 learners from diverse backgrounds, she embraces inclusivity with warmth, empathy, and professionalism. Her personal motto — *“Love your learners, as some children don’t go home to love”* — is not only a guiding principle but a lived practice in her daily engagement with children.

Ms Swart’s classroom is a model of differentiated learning and child-centred practices. She creates an inclusive environment where learners with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, autism spectrum disorder, and other learning needs thrive through individualised support strategies. Visual schedules, fidget tools, targeted seating arrangements, and scaffolded instruction ensure that every child receives the care and attention they need to succeed. Her teaching integrates multiple learning styles, uses the science of reading, *Jolly Phonics*, and inquiry-based learning, supported by regular assessment and reflection.

Her impact reaches far beyond academics. She initiates sustainable projects to support the needs of the community and learners. She established a school clothing bank in 2021, which continues to provide essential items for learners in need. She regularly provides food parcels, school supplies, and even transport for learners who face extreme challenges. When refugee families from her class were displaced, she took it upon herself to organise

donations, wash uniforms, and maintain long-term support networks — a testament to her unwavering commitment to her learners’ dignity and wellbeing.

Ms Swart is also a leader within her school. She serves on the School-Based Support Team, mentors colleagues, facilitates team-building activities, plays a key role in co-curricular programmes including art clubs, spelling bee competitions, concerts, and initiated a book reading club for Grade 4. She also initiated a Princess Programme for Grade 4 learners to improve girl self-esteem. She uses innovative strategies such as interactive sound walls, buddy systems, and behaviour checklists to foster responsibility and confidence in learners and regularly engages parents through WhatsApp communication and feedback systems.

Passionate about continuous improvement, Ms Swart maintains organised planning and monitoring tools, welcomes feedback from departmental heads and subject advisers, and actively pursues professional development. She views challenges — whether related to poverty, trauma, or curriculum demands — not as obstacles, but as opportunities to grow, adapt, and serve with an even greater impact.

Ms Swart’s work reflects the highest ideals of the teaching profession. Her classroom is a space of learning, healing, and hope. Her influence is transformative, and her commitment to holistic education makes her a deserving recipient of the NTA for Excellence in Primary School Teaching.

Provincial National Teaching Awards (NTA) 2025



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