TENEO
THE SMARTER SCHOOL



The Smart School Guide:

A complete guide to choosing the right school for your child







Which school is best for my child?

Choosing a school is one of the most meaningful decisions you'll make as a parent. It shapes your child's confidence, their love of learning, and the opportunities they'll have beyond school.

This guide will unpack the schooling options available in South Africa, explore what really matters when choosing a school, and introduce you to the future of education. And by the end, you'll feel empowered to choose the school that fits your child's needs.

INTRODUCTION

The evolution of **South African schooling**

For decades, schooling in South Africa followed one predictable format: learners in classrooms, fixed timetables, one teacher per class, limited flexibility.

Then the world changed.

When the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted traditional schooling, it exposed long-standing gaps in brick-and-mortar schooling systems – highlighting how flexible, modern models held many of the solutions.

In the wake of this global disaster, an entirely new way of learning came to light.

From fixed to flexible to future-ready

DID YOU KNOW?

More than **30% of parents** are now considering online schooling for their children.

Forward-thinking schools began adopting flexible models – online and hybrid – that make quality private education accessible to learners across South Africa and abroad.

Studies have shown that distance education and online schooling does not mean less hands-on learning. Instead of removing human interaction, it's simply improving it. These learning models have proved to be especially effective for neurodiverse learners or those located in isolated areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

The e-learning industry is projected to reach more than **USD $840 billion by 2030.**

Online and hybrid schooling has:

Allowed lessons to be replayed so children with diverse learning needs don't get left behind

Solved South Africa's common problem of a shortage of qualified teachers

Allowed space for everyone! Limited class capacity is a thing of the past

At Teneo School, thousands of learners have thrived in this model, achieving better results across all ability levels and a matric pass rate of **85% for IEB** and **82% for SACAI** in 2024.

While quality learning is now more accessible than ever, parents now have a lot more opportunity (and responsibility) to choose the right school for their child's needs.

Not based on tradition.
But based on what actually helps your child thrive.

SECTION 1

What are my options?

Parents have **three different types of schooling models** to choose from — each with their own benefits and limitations. Understanding the differences is the first step toward choosing a school that genuinely supports your child's needs.

Schooling models:



Traditional schooling

The school model most of us grew up with

- Traditional brick-and-mortar institution
- Learners attend classes physically every day
- Predominantly group-learning environment
- Fixed schedules with limited flexibility
- Requires daily transport, uniforms and additional costs



Online & homeschooling

Home-based learning

- Learning takes place at home, either through an online school or parent-directed homeschooling
- Families follow a recognised South African curriculum using digital lessons and prescribed materials
- Lessons may be live, recorded or parent-taught, depending on the programme chosen
- More day-to-day flexibility than traditional schooling, with little or no daily travel
- Requires a laptop or device, reliable internet and active support from a parent or guardian

The best of both worlds



Smarter schooling

Online learning with provably better results

- Combines the flexibility of online learning with the structure of an accredited curriculum
- Engaging, interactive lessons taught by qualified teachers, with every lesson recorded and available 24/7 for extra practice and revision
- Strong, ongoing teacher support with regular feedback, assessments and progress tracking
- Clear academic pathways and support to keep learners on track and future-ready
- A vibrant online community with opportunities for collaboration, clubs and meet-ups

SECTION 2

What do I need to consider before making a choice?

There is no one-size-fits-all answer to what any particular child might need to succeed – only the one that best fits your child. But one thing that studies are beginning to show is that **children thrive with a balanced mix of flexibility and structure,** something not all brick-and-mortar institutions can provide.

That's why online schooling models have become an increasingly popular option for families.

Essential school criteria list:

While every child has different needs, there are some non-negotiables that you shouldn't ignore when you're choosing an educational institution, including:

- ☐ **Accredited curriculums and academic integrity:** Whichever schooling model you choose, it is vital that the curriculum meets the standards set by the relevant examination board, whether this is the IEB, SACAI, or an international assessment body, to open up doors to both local and global tertiary education.
- ☐ **Qualified teachers:** To support your child's education and help them reach their full potential, teachers should be SACE-registered. Ideally, look for an educational institution that's human-led and supported by technology to give your child an advantage in the digital age.
- ☐ **A healthy and accessible learning environment:** The space your child is educated in can directly impact the quality of their learning outcomes. Ensure the educational environment is supportive and tailored to your child's needs.
- ☐ **Inclusive approaches for diverse learners:** Children thrive in personalised, flexible environments, especially if they have different learning needs. Make sure there are inclusive approaches and support in place to accommodate your child's unique learning style.
- ☐ **Quality, affordable schooling:** Prices and affordability for your family come first. Pick a school that fits your family's needs, without compromising on the quality of your child's education.
- ☐ **Real-time visibility into your child's progress:** Every parent wants to see how their child is progressing. Picking a school with high visibility and clear, direct communication with parents will allow you to better support your child throughout their learning journey.
- ☐ **Engaging, multi-modal learning experiences:** Studies reveal the importance of multi-modal learning experiences – videos, interactive tools, simulations, games, and podcasts. Look for a school that offers more than just PDFs and worksheets.
- ☐ **Proven results across all ability levels:** Every school will tell you they're 'good', but not all can prove it. The school you send your child to should have proven results and data to support their education model. Make sure to do a deep dive into success rates across the board to get a full picture.

At Teneo, better results aren't a promise – they're proven.

+12% average mark increase in the first year
+25% average mark increase by year four
Over 3 500 successful matrics

Ask the right questions

Before you enrol your child, make sure you're asking all the right questions. **Here are five key questions to add to your list:**

How will I know if my child is struggling?

The school should allow parents access to their child's progress and have clear communication channels to support interventions when necessary.

How quickly do teachers intervene when problems arise?

Especially in remote settings, ensure that the school has adequate systems in place to take real-time action and address any problems that may surface.

How do you keep learners engaged and motivated?

Motivation and engagement are key to successful learning. Make sure that whichever type of school you choose, they have various learning models and techniques that make learning come alive.

What are the success rates and results?

Ask for proof of positive results to ensure your child is being set up for success.

How do you support children with different learning needs?

If your child is neurodiverse or has unique learning needs, make sure the school can support them consistently throughout their schooling experience.

Thinking about online schooling? Let's bust some myths

Here are the facts about online schooling so you can make the most educated decision possible:

MYTH	REALITY
"Technology in schools means less human interaction."	Smart technology actually frees teachers from admin and routine tasks so they can spend more quality time teaching and supporting your child.
"One-on-one attention is only possible in small classes."	Good online schools use data-driven insights to ensure personalised support from teachers can be offered at a larger scale so that every learner gets a front-row seat to a quality education.
"My child needs a special school if they have learning challenges."	The right systems can support every child, regardless of their abilities.
“You can’t track progress in a remote setting.”	The best online schools provide real-time insights into your child’s progress, and often incorporate parental alerts and scheduled interventions. All learners’ progress should be closely monitored.
“My child won’t have the same quality of education as they would in brick-and-mortar schools.”	At Teneo School in particular, learners improve their marks on average by 12% in year 1, and up to 25% by year 4! After just two years at Teneo School, learners are 60% more likely to pass. If you want more data that shows the outcomes of online learning, check out our results page.
“There’s no way to ensure learners aren’t cheating on exams if they have access to their computer.”	At Teneo School, we use top-of-the-line invigilation software that prevents cheating just as well as in-person schools can.

Am I sacrificing the quality of education with an online school?

Not at all! Choosing an online school doesn't mean sacrificing quality. Legitimate institutions will have SACE-registered teachers and present formal assessments (like tests and examinations) from an accredited curriculum. It will ensure a fair assessment process and the validity of learners' results, as stipulated by the governing examination board.

DID YOU KNOW?

Teneo School is the **only school in South Africa** to be registered with two South African examination boards (both the IEB and SACAI) as well as with Pearson Edexcel, the UK's largest assessment body.

A recognised matric qualification with Teneo

SACAI and the IEB are the two accredited assessment bodies authorised by Umalusi to oversee the National Senior Certificate (NSC).

Teneo is officially listed as an online school approved by both the IEB and SACAI, under their concession for certification of learners with Umalusi, for Teneo learners to write the NSC examinations.

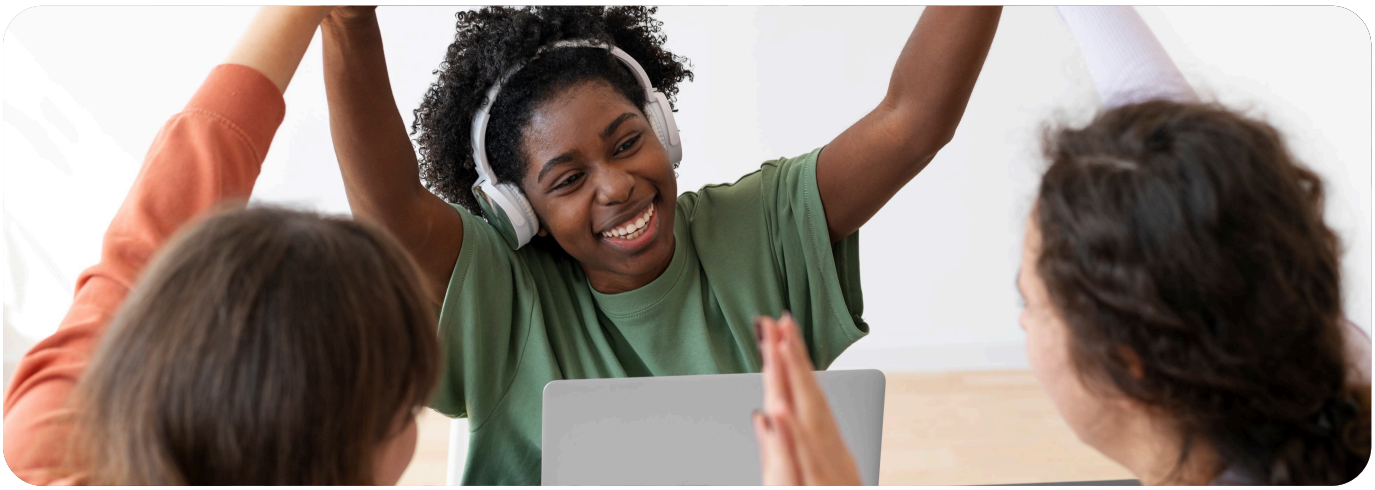
All learners who complete Grade 12 at Teneo receive a Umalusi-certified matric, the same as any recognised school in South Africa.

The NSC, issued by Umalusi, **is recognised by local and international tertiary institutions.**



SECTION 3

What is **Teneo's Smart School System™** and how does it compare to other schooling models?



Teneo's Smart School System™ explained

Teneo School is reimagining education, where expert teachers are enabled by smart technology to help every child, of any ability, achieve better results.

So what's the Teneo difference?

What is Teneo School?

Teneo School is South Africa's No. 1 online school, powered by our unique Smart School System™. We offer three school formats in English and Afrikaans designed to support every child's learning needs. Teneo learners are taught by 170+ passionate, SACE-registered teachers, who are supported by smart technology that track progress in real time and enable personalised, targeted support.

The result? Learners improve their average marks by +12% in the first year, and +25% by year four. Over 3 500 learners have successfully matriculated with Teneo School.

Why it works?

Teneo's Smart School System™ works because it tracks every learner's activity and progress in real time, spotting trends, gaps, and risks instantly. Teachers can step in early with targeted individual support, while learners and parents are kept informed with timely nudges and progress updates.

A smarter school

Teneo School's Smart School System™ enhances every aspect of private schooling to unlock transformative teaching, a richer, more intelligent learning experience, and better results for every child of any ability. Progress is tracked, support is personalised, and motivation is built into the daily routine creating a smarter school.

Is Teneo affordable?

Teneo School provides quality education at affordable, accessible fees. With year-round admissions and no restrictions or qualification criteria, we are democratising inclusive, high-quality, accessible private education.

To see Teneo's monthly school fees, refer to our full pricing here.

A day in the life at Teneo



7:00 AM

Maxine logs in to her Teneo dashboard. Her personalised calendar is laid out hour by hour to guide her throughout her school day.

7:45 AM

Her format determines if she attends live, a combination of live and recorded lessons, or watches fully recorded lessons at her convenience.

11:00 AM

After a morning of classes, Maxine takes a wellbeing break to move her body.

1:30 PM

Once her school day ends, Maxine can join extramurals with other learners in her area. Maxine can also work on assignments with all resources available in one place, and can replay lessons 24/7 for revision. Teneo's flexible structure promotes a healthy school-life balance for happier, more confident learners.

The Teneo online advantage

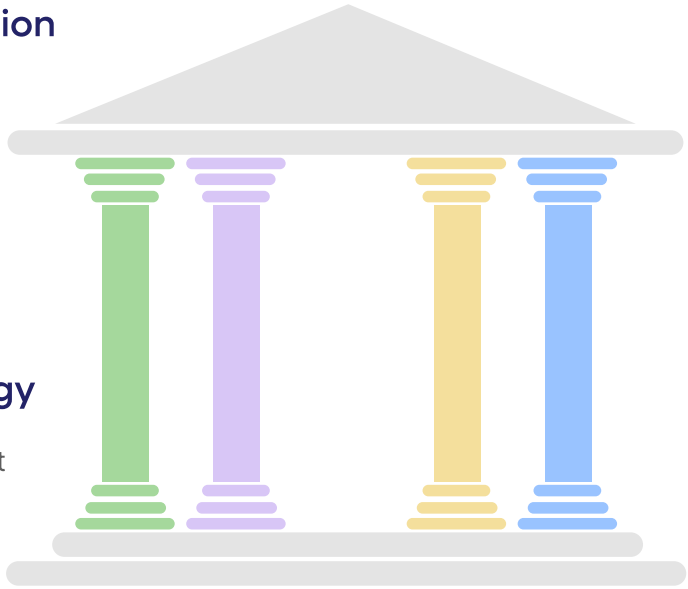
Teneo School is built on four foundational pillars that help every learner unlock their extraordinary:

Human connection

Caring, qualified teachers who know learners by name, providing guidance and support.

Data insights

Teachers, parents, and learners always know how things are going and can see progress in real time.



Smart technology

Digital ecosystem that tracks progress, identifies gaps, and ensures timely, targeted support.

Motivation that works

Learning feels like a game, so learners stay engaged and want to learn more.

And the results speak for themselves!

+12%	+25%	60%	2x	3 500+
average mark improvement in year 1	average mark improvement by year 4	more likely to pass after two years	Pass rates double within five years	successful matrics and counting

+8% above the national SACAI matric pass rate in 2024

94% of Teneo's IEB learners achieved a diploma pass or higher in 2024

89% of Teneo's SACAI learners achieved a diploma pass or higher in 2024

Meet the Kenneth family!

When relocating from Cape Town, the Kenneth family enrolled both of their children, Ethan (Grade 10) and Ellisha (Grade 6), in Teneo School. Knowing that their move wouldn't coincide with in-person school enrolment – and not wanting to put them in just any school – they took a friend's advice to check out Teneo.



"The kids fell in love," expressed mother, Rebeca Kenneth, "I had no doubt Teneo was the best option for them".

Before they knew it, both of their kids became A+ students. They both loved the structure, the format and were able to complete their schooling from the comfort of their own home.

> **The quality of teaching is unique, the teachers notice you more. I can go beyond what the lesson says, I can do my own research, and if I need help, I can just email my teacher."**
>
> – Ethan Kenneth

"The classes are very disciplined," Rebecca said. She even found that her "kids became a bit more confident" being at home. It allows for a comfortable, familiar space for her kids to learn how to speak up and engage in discussions without being intimidated by a new space.

Not only this, but the flexibility of Teneo's Smart School System™ allows them to rewatch lessons, go over content together as a family, and travel. No matter where their family may need to relocate in the future, their schooling will be a constant. "My kids will not want to go back to a physical school," Rebecca confirms. "They love the structure, they love being at home in a calm space."

"I think they interact a little bit more now with their friends than they did in a physical school. I love that they look forward to school in the morning." – Rebeca Kenneth



What does this mean for your child and their schooling?

Every child can achieve more – with the right system. No matter your child's unique needs, Teneo School has a school format and the tools to help them achieve better results, connect with friends, and get the quality education they deserve.

Now, let's choose a school.

SECTION 4

How to **make the right choice** when it comes to selecting a school for your child

The ultimate checklist

We understand the information might be overwhelming. But don't worry! We've compiled a simple checklist to help you evaluate any school you are considering.

- Does the school have adequate data to prove its success rate?
- If international learning is a future priority, does the school offer internationally accepted curriculum(s)?
- Does the school offer the flexibility my child needs or may need in the future?
- Do the school fees fit my budget? If not, are there adequate financial services opportunities available?
- Is the school accessible enough for my child to attend?
- Does the school have intervention tools to address issues as soon as they arise?
- Does the school have a culture that aligns with my values?
- Is the school transparent? Will they involve me in my child's progress and other important school updates?
- Does the school offer regular parent communication for me to stay in the loop?
- Do I have all the necessary information from this school to make an educated decision? (If not, reach out and get it now!)

> **Some parents have preconceived ideas about what's right for their child, which may or may not be correct. It's important to go into the process with a open mind, and think carefully about what type of educational environment will work for your child."**
>
> – Ann and Karen Wolff, Education Consultant, Wolff Educational Services

It's easy to get caught up in wanting the most for your child or what you envision their schooling experience to be like, but for this decision, it's important to put your child's actual needs and learning style at the centre of your choice.



Next steps

We hope this guide will support you in making the most educated decision for your child's future.

To learn more about Teneo School and find out if it's a right fit for your child, speak to an enrolment advisor today.

Open live chat

"Education should no longer be one-dimensional. Our learners live in a dynamic, connected world, and their school experience needs to reflect that."

Lientjie Pelser,
Head of Academics at Teneo School.

TENEO

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