



Evolve School Programmes



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Karen Walstra is a passionate educationalist, who promotes creative thinking, incorporating digital tools, to address educational and learning transformation. She worked for Google from 2014 to April 2017 within the emerging markets “Education Go Digital” and Chrome OS Teams, both globally and across Sub-Saharan Africa.

She holds a Masters in Education, from the University of the Witwatersrand, focusing on Educational Technology. She is an accredited Education, Training and Development Assessor and Moderator. After her successful twenty-nine year career as a classroom teacher and Director of Academics, Karen decided it was time for a change and became an independent education consultant. She works with educational institutions addressing educational transform and change. She has presented at many local and international conferences on Design and Technology, and Educational Technology. She is an author. She coordinated, assisted in developing and trained on large scale outreach programmes such as St Stithians College’s Thandulwazi Teacher and Leader Development Programme (2006 - 2015), and The Click Foundation Learner Reading project (2012 - 2014). She is a teacher at heart, wanting to see effective education transformation for each learner. She believes in “Changing Education One Step at a Time!”



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Programmes, Presentations and Workshops

A range of programmes, presentations and workshops are offered for schools, teachers, parents and learners. Each is customised to suit the needs of the school community.

Evolve School Programme

The EvolveSchool Project is the process to explore and implement educational transformation within your educational organisation, to cope with the changing world, Investigating, developing planning strategies and training sessions within the school tailor-made to your needs, to include a whole school strategy - classroom strategies, pedagogical methodologies, learning space and classroom layout, technological options and other teaching resources.



Goals

1. Discover where the school is at in relation to education change by means of audits. All parties to participate in, complete and analysis existing school environment (learning spaces, resources and technology) and personnel pedagogical strategies, level of use and ability of technology.
2. Understand, define and communicate the vision of the school. Work with the executive and relevant parties to unpack and determine vision for all parties to buy in.
3. Encourage the leadership to publicly acknowledge the change, and then to begin using the tools and sharing with others.
4. Develop an action plan with regards to resources and skills development. Construct relevant short, medium and long term goals to achieve the school's vision. Build in relevant training to assist in achieving the vision.
5. Assess action plan and vision, encourage continual research and lifelong learning among all parties. Ongoing annual refresher session of the process and progress.

For further information see: <https://www.evolvedschool.co.za>

Community Involvement Outreach Programme

Any school no matter how big or small could get involved in community projects. These projects could range from teaching children to care for the elderly or very young in the local community, to partnering with other schools and sharing teaching ideas and providing some assistance, to offering teacher or student workshops on weekend, afternoons or evening for visiting and invited teachers or students. I will provide you with ideas on how to structure your outreach project to suit the needs of your school.

Discuss and brainstorm:

Why your school should be involved in an outreach programme?

Should the children be involved in community service projects? What options are there?

Should teacher be involved in community service projects? How can teachers be involved?

Starting an outreach project, where to begin?

Provide school with suggestion on how outreach for teachers could be developed including school-site consultation, education, and other assistance.

Participate in establishing training programme, co-ordination meetings and site functions.

Assist school outreach leader, including: programme, communication, organisation on the day itself, skills being offered

Provide assistance in how to advertise the programme to the public regarding the programme to about the topics to target-group schools and community groups.

Provide teacher leader support.

Coordinate with other professionals in developing innovative school programs and in maximizing school / community resources to benefit outreach teachers and their learner populations.

Other related duties as assigned.

Improving your existing outreach project, what could be done?

For further information see: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=14>



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Teacher Professional Programmes

A wide range of Teacher hands-on workshops and presentations are available.
Select the activities which would suit your staff's professional development needs.



Teacher Presentations

Academic Workshops

Encouraging **Critical and Creative Thinking** in your everyday lessons

Should girls and boys be taught differently? Gender in Education. When teaching should we consider the gender of the child. How can we understand individual learners better.

New brain studies in **neuroscience** and how they can be translated into the classroom.

The child who disturbs your lessons, how to cope with children who are easily distracted, can't sit still? Tips and ideas of how to make school enjoyable for these children. Toys, water, labyrinth, maze

For further information see: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=11>

Technology Workshop

IT in your school, overcoming the teachers' fear, and making teaching effective in a 21st century learning environment

The modern classroom, using different electronic devices and technologies to suit different needs - computers, tablets, response systems, management learning systems, etc. Making learning appropriate and fun!

How to integrate IT into our everyday curriculum

For further information see: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=6>

Technology - Maker-Space - design thinking workshops

Computational Thinking

Starting a Coding Club

Robotics - mBot and Spero

What is Technology & teaching through the Design Process

Workshops about Structures, Mechanical systems, Electrical Systems

For further information see: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=6>

Learning Spaces

Every space is a teaching space

How to transform my classroom in a cost effective manner?

Teaching outside my classroom

For further information see: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=13>

Community Involvement

The importance and impact of community involvement projects

For further information see: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=14>

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Teacher Interactive Workshops

Academic Workshops

"The child I teach" this workshop focuses on the child as a whole, reminding teachers to consider the individual needs to the child. Giving tips on how to teach while stimulating the various senses, and building on strengths on each child, incorporates Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences, and learning styles.

"Encouraging thinking" this workshop focuses how to look at one's own teaching practices, and ask are the children thinking creatively and critically in my classroom? Tips and ideas on how to encourage thinking, questioning techniques

For further information see: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=11>

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Learning Spaces Workshops

Workshop on how to transform an existing classroom cost-effectively

For further information see: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=13>

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Learner Programmes

A wide range of Teacher hands-on workshops and presentations are available. Select the activities which would suit your staff's professional development needs.



Learner Presentations

Technology

"Internet safety and the importance thereof"

Cyberbullying - tips and ideas

For further information see: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=6>

Learning Spaces

Setting up my study and homework space

For further information: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=13>

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Learner Interactive Workshops

Technology

Be a responsible digital citizen
 "Internet safety and the importance thereof" - let's explore
 Let's get coding - initial workshop to begin the coding journey
 Introduction to Robotics

Learning Spaces

Setting up my study and homework space - let's model the space
 For further information: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=13>

Community Involvement

Why is community service important to me?
 For further information: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=14>

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Parent Programmes

A wide range of Teacher hands-on workshops and presentations are available. Select the activities which would suit your staff's professional development needs.

Parent Presentations and Workshops

Technology

"Internet safety and the importance thereof"
 Cyber-bullying - how to assist
 "Family Fun" Problem solving evenings. Getting families to solve a problem together, building relationships and informing them about the subject Technology.

Learning Spaces

Things to consider when setting up study and homework space for my child
 For further information: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=13>

Community Involvement

Role of parents and School Governing Body in School Community Projects
 Why I should encourage my daughter / son to participate in Community Service?
 For further info: <http://karenwalstraconsulting.co.za/home/index.php?ipkContentID=14>

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