



The Three2Six Response

The Three2Six Refugee Children's Education Project has been providing an afternoon bridging education programme for hundreds of refugee children since 2008.

The project offers Maths, English and Life Skills classes to prepare children to move into government schools. It employs refugee teachers, providing them with employment, assistance to have their home qualifications recognised, experience with the South African curriculum and where necessary supporting them with further study.

Lessons are provided utilising the classrooms and facilities of the host schools. Three2Six learners are provided with their uniforms, textbooks and school materials, one meal per day and where necessary, safe transport to and from school.

One of Three2Six's core objectives is to transition children into mainstream education as soon as possible. The project finishes in Grade 6, ensuring that all children are transitioned into local schools in time to experience at least one year of mainstream primary school education before starting high school.

Children's Rights in South Africa

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa states that

- 28 (2) *A child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child*
- 29 (1)(a) *Everyone has the right to a basic education*

The Children's Act of 2005 states that Chapter 2 (6) (2) All proceedings, actions or decisions in a matter concerning a child must:

- (a) respect, protect, promote and fulfil the child's rights set out in the Bill of Rights, the best interests of the child standard set out in section 7 and the rights and principles set out in this Act, subject to any lawful limitation;
- (b) respect the child's inherent dignity;
- (c) treat the child fairly and equitably;
- (d) protect the child from unfair discrimination on any ground;
- (e) recognise a child's need for development and to engage in play and other recreational activities appropriate to the child's age; and
- (f) recognise a child's disability and create an enabling environment to respond to the special needs that the child has.

In South Africa, refugee and migrant children under 18 are entitled to protection under the Constitution and the Children's Act.

In practice they experience numerous challenges and barriers to accessing an education. These include difficulty registering for school without identity documents, extreme poverty and xenophobia.

Three2Six Holiday Programs

During the Soccer World Cup in South Africa in 2010 there was a concern that Three2Six children may be at risk of targeting for child trafficking. As a measure to help ensure their safety during this time, Sacred Heart Marist College organized a holiday program, providing a fun program of activities but also a safe place for the children throughout the day.

The program was such a success that it has been repeated annually ever since. Given the limited time and constricted curriculum during the term, Three2Six now offers learners two holiday programs each year. In December all children from the three campuses join together for two weeks and in July/August each campus offers a local one week holiday program.

Volunteers from Australia, Germany, Brazil and Paraguay have joined with local South African volunteers to offer activities that the learners otherwise are not exposed to, for example art, craft, dance, drama, sports, nutrition, science, natural science, music, ICT, games, quiet reading and exciting educational excursions and camps.



Our Mission

To provide access to quality bridging education for refugee children, to support them to integrate into a public school.

Our Values

Marist Characteristics

As a Marist program we live the characteristics of presence, family spirit, love of work, simplicity and in the way of Mary.

Quality Education

We provide the highest possible quality of education for our learners.

A Safe Space

We provide an environment that is socially, physically, spiritually and emotionally safe for our learners.

Integration and Inclusion

We embrace diversity and seek opportunities for our learners to engage with their host school and broader South African community.

Diversity of Expression

While we are a Marist program, we embrace the diversity of expression found in all our host schools and value the unique gifts in each of our communities.

Understanding and Giving Voice

We understand the complex nature of displacement and seek to give voice to our children and their broader refugee communities.

Our Objectives

To provide safe, quality education to primary school refugee children who cannot access public education.

To build the children's resilience and prepare them to leave the project and enter into mainstream schools.

To provide employment and professional development for refugee teachers.

To advocate for the rights of refugee children.

Learn More

Precieuse (2 part story)

Precieuse is a story about a refugee's journey from their home country to South Africa.

This particular story is a collaboration of experiences written and produced by our Three2Six learners. Precieuse's story was developed during the 2013 Holiday Program using a stop-gap animation process facilitated by Mindburst.

Journey with an Artist

During some of our Holiday Programs our children explored their own experiences and the theme of children's rights through a workshop process with an artist. Their pieces are shared through the art books 'Refugee Stories', 'A sense of self, a sense of place', and 'Migrating Imaginations'.

Musical Theatre Challenge

Three2Six Learners participated in a musical theatre challenge in 2014, in association with Minimax Performing Arts and facilitated by Mindburst.

Lost in the Middle

A report on Migrant Children's Access to Education in Johannesburg, commissioned by Sacred Heart College.



THREE2SIX
Refugee Children's Education Project

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