



→ Provincial Winner

Excellence in Special Needs Teaching

Name: Chadwin Bagley
School: Rusthof School, Rusthof, Strand
District: Metro East

Mr Chadwin Bagley stands as a beacon of innovative teaching practices and unwavering dedication to nurturing young minds at Rusthof Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN) School. With a career spanning over several years in education, his impact goes far beyond traditional classroom boundaries, embodying a commitment to unlocking learner potential and fostering a love for learning through diverse methods.

At the heart of Mr Bagley's teaching philosophy lies his innovative approach to teaching and learning. He has pioneered the Rotation Station System, a dynamic method that engages students through interactive learning stations tailored to different learning styles. This system not only enhances comprehension but also cultivates a deeper appreciation for each subject. As an innovator and advocate for the use of Performing Arts to enhance learning, Mr Bagley

wrote a school anthem which is sung as part of the daily school practice.

An avid learner himself, Mr Bagley initiated the school's renowned Marimba Band, where students discover the joy of music while honing their teamwork skills. This initiative not only promotes cultural expression but also showcases his ability to inspire through leading by example.

Beyond traditional curricula, Mr Bagley integrates language learning with storytelling, drama, role play and music, creating a vibrant learning environment where students excel linguistically and creatively. His dedication to enhancing communication skills is further underscored by his proficiency in DCAPS – Makaton levels 1 & 2, enriching the educational experience for all learners.

Mr Bagley's classroom is synonymous with a safe space where students are encouraged to learn through making mistakes, fostering resilience and self-confidence. This nurturing environment extends to his initiatives like the collaboration and networking with the Playhouse Theatre, where students explore their talents and build connections through Performing Arts.

Recognising the importance of holistic development, Mr Bagley champions initiatives like visual report cards and home visits, strengthening relationships with parents and tailoring support to each student's unique needs. His efforts extend to enhancing fine-motor skills through personalised device use, demonstrating a commitment to inclusive education.

Mr Bagley's impact extends beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his organisation of cultural programmes with items sponsored by a local supermarket as well as parent donations. These initiatives not only break down stigma but also create opportunities for students to shine. He is instrumental in the planning and organisation of the School Leavers' Ball, Eisteddfods' and various competitions that celebrate diversity and talent.

As a Cape Teaching and Leadership Institute (CTLI) facilitator and mentor to novice educators, Mr

Bagley shares his expertise in Lego/Sensory training and post-graduate applications, enriching educational practices across the school. His "check-in" approach ensures the wellbeing of colleagues, fostering a supportive professional community.

In summary, Mr Chadwin Bagley exemplifies the transformative power of education. Through his innovative teaching methods, dedication to student growth, and commitment to community engagement, he continues to inspire generations of learners to reach their full potential. His legacy at Rusthof LSEN School is one of excellence, empathy, and has an enduring impact in the field of education.

Mr Bagley's journey serves as a testament to the profound difference a passionate educator can make in shaping the future leaders of tomorrow.