

Searidge Park Primary

Language policy

In determining this policy, the school governing body has taken cognisance of the rights of pupils in terms of the constitution and of the relevant sections of the South African Schools Act, with particular reference to section 6 and to the policy guidelines of the national "Language in Education Policy" of 1997.

In line with Section 6 of the South African Schools Act, as amended by the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act (2024), the language policy of the school is subject to review and potential override by the Head of Department (HOD) where it results in the unfair exclusion of learners or where it is not reasonably practicable to implement. The SGB commits to revising the policy should such a directive be issued.

The language of learning and teaching (LOLT) of this school shall be English from grade R to 7. All instruction in this school, other than specific language instruction, will take place through the medium of English from Grade R to 7.

A child whose mother tongue is not English, and who applies for admission to the school and who designates English as his choice of LOLT, will not be disadvantaged in the school's selection and admission process on the grounds that his home language is not the LOLT of the school.

Where learners are admitted whose home language is not English, the school will make reasonable accommodations to support their language development in English through additional support mechanisms or remedial instruction where practicable, to ensure equitable access to the curriculum.

Subject to its capacity to do so, and the availability of suitably qualified teachers, the school will offer the following official language as a subject in addition to English Home Language, which is a compulsory subject for all pupils who are enrolled in the school.

Afrikaans First Additional Language

This offering will be reviewed from time to time, subject to the demand of pupils already enrolled in the school. It is the policy of this school not to offer elective subjects in a grade if fewer than 40 pupils elect to take the subject in a given year.

Language choice. All pupils are required to take Afrikaans in addition to English Home Language.

1. Language of Learning

The language of learning refers to the medium in which learners access the curriculum. At Searidge Park Primary, the official Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) is English from Grade R to 7. The school commits to ensuring that all learners receive equitable access to the curriculum. Learners whose home language is not English will be supported through bridging programmes, remedial classes, or additional language development initiatives.

2. Language of Teaching

Teaching must take place in a clear, inclusive, and accessible language. All teaching shall be conducted in English as the LOLT. Educators are encouraged to use multilingual strategies, code-switching, and additional resources to bridge learning gaps for learners whose home language is not English.

3. Language of Communication

The school shall use English as its primary language of communication within the school environment. Where practicable, translation or simplified versions of communication will be provided to ensure inclusivity.

4. Correspondence with Parents

All official correspondence with parents shall be in English. However, where reasonable and practicable, communication will be supplemented in Afrikaans or isiXhosa to accommodate linguistic diversity within the school community.

5. Correspondence with the Public

Official correspondence with the public will primarily be in English, while translation into additional languages will be considered for broader community access.

6. Staff Meetings and Briefings

All staff meetings and official briefings will be conducted in English. However, where necessary, clarification in Afrikaans or isiXhosa may be provided to ensure inclusivity and shared understanding among all staff members.

7. Learner Assemblies

English shall be the main medium of communication during assemblies. Elements in other languages such as Afrikaans, isiXhosa, or greetings in learners' home languages will be incorporated to affirm diversity and multilingualism.

8. Progress Reports

All learner progress reports will be issued in English. Where practicable, translation into Afrikaans or isiXhosa may be considered to assist comprehension by parents and guardians.

9. Non-Discrimination in Implementing the Policy

No learner or staff member shall be discriminated against on the basis of language. The implementation of this language policy shall promote inclusivity, equity, and respect for diversity in line with the Constitution and the South African Schools Act.

10. Constitutional Rights of Learners

The school shall uphold the constitutional rights of learners to education in the language of their choice where reasonably practicable. Measures will be taken to ensure that learners are not unfairly disadvantaged by the school's language policy.

11. Promotion of Multilingualism

The school shall promote multilingualism through:

- Offering Afrikaans as a First Additional Language to all learners.
- Encouraging and recognising the use of isiXhosa and other languages spoken in the community in cultural, social, and learning contexts.
- Exploring immersion programmes, remedial support, and language maintenance strategies where practicable.
- Promoting respect for all languages within the school community.

THIS POLICY HAS BEEN ADOPTED:

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Date

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Mr G.S Conradie
Principal

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Place

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Mr A.Moses
SGB Chairperson

Policy review date:

This policy will be reviewed annually by the School Governing Body to ensure compliance with the latest provisions of the Constitution, South African Schools Act, WCED directives, and the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act (Bella Bill).

The school endorses multilingualism and promotes respect for all languages spoken by its learners and broader school community.