



SUNLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

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LANGUAGE POLICY

(Amended 20 May 2024)

The Governing Body of Sunlands Primary School has, in accordance with section 6(2) of the South African School Act, approved the following policy with regard to language at the school.

1. Definition

The words and expressions in this document, unless otherwise stipulated or as can be reasonably deduced, have the same meaning as in the South African Schools Act (Act 84 of 1996) and mean the following:

- 1.1 "Governing Body" the Governing Body of the school as provided for in section 16 of the South African Schools Act (Act 84 of 1996);
- 1.2 "Constitution" the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996);
- 1.3 "Principal" the Principal of the School as intended in the South African Schools Act as well as an educator at the school who has been appointed as such with the consent of the Principal and Governing Body;
- 1.4 "Regulations" the norms and standards for language policy in public schools and the stipulations of mother tongue education, as promulgated by the Minister of Education in the Government Gazette;
- 1.5 "School" Sunlands Primary School;
- 1.6 "Language policy" the language policy contained in this document.

2. Point of departure and basis

The point of departure and basis of the language policy is that full expression must be accorded to all the fundamental rights with regard to the language of learners in an educational context as generally acknowledged in the Charter of Rights of chapter 2 of the Constitution and specifically mentioned in section 29(2) of the Constitution.

3. Language policy subject to other legal stipulations: Interpretation of Language Policy

- 3.1 The language policy is subject to the stipulations of the South African Schools Act (ACT 84 of 1996), the Western Cape Provincial School Education Act (Act 12 of 1997) and the Regulations as far as they are binding on the school.
- 3.2 The language policy is defined and implemented in such a manner that it is reconcilable with other relevant and valid legal prescriptions relating to the use of language in education.
- 3.3 The point of departure of the language policy, without limiting 2.1, is that the best interests of the learners of the School, in an educational context, must be served and that no learner may be discriminated against in any unreasonable or unfair manner.

4. Factors considered

In drafting this policy, the following factors have been considered:

- 4.1 The interests of learners
- 4.2 The interest of the school community
- 4.3 The interest of the community in which the school is located
- 4.4 The capacity of the school
- 4.5 The resources and staff available at the school
- 4.6 International best practice with regard to class size and language education, with specific reference to the importance of mother tongue education.

5. Languages of learning and teaching at Sunlands Primary School

- 5.1 The School is an English institution and all teaching and learning takes place in English.
- 5.2 Subject to the stipulations of the language policy, the language of instruction for all grades from Gr. R to Gr. 7 at the School is English.
- 5.3 Learners who have as their mother tongue as another language, may be admitted on condition they understand and can master good English. English will serve as their first language of instruction while they will gradually be exposed to the first additional language, Afrikaans.
- 5.4 It is clearly indicated on the admission forms of the School that teaching takes place in English.

6. Review of the Language policy

As with all other policies, the language policy is reviewed annually during a Governing Body meeting for adjustment and / or approval.

7. Protection of rights of enrolled learners

- 7.1 Since the School uses its full capacity to educate learners who are proficient in English, no provision has been made to change the language of instruction and learning in the near future.
- 7.2 Should the composition of the school community change to such an extent that a change in the language policy is necessitated, negotiations with members of the parent community will first take place. Should it then be necessary, a new recommended language policy will be phased in as agreed upon by the parent community and Governing Body of the school, on condition that the rights of the already enrolled learners are not infringed upon.

8. Languages of assessment

- 8.1 On enrolment of parents are informed that the language of instruction English. The learner receives all learning support – and assessment material in English. All assessment tasks are completed by the learner in English.
- 8.2 Reporting at the end of each term is also done in English.
- 8.3 When an educator communicates with a learner and / or parent, it will be in English.

9. Language to be used in Staff, SMT, Subject, Phase and GB meetings:

- 9.1 The language to be used in all of the above meetings is English.

10. Language to be used in the Assembly of learners:

10.1 The language to be used in all assemblies is English. Assemblies may also be in the First Additional Language which is Afrikaans.

11. Remedial education with regard to language

A remedial system exists at Sunlands Primary School whereby learners who amongst others with language problems can benefit. Learners from Gr.1 to Gr. 4 are withdrawn for remedial education by an educator assigned for this purpose. In cases where more specialised attention is required, learners are referred to the School Based Support Team (SBST) for recommended professional intervention.

12. Promotion of multilingualism

The School promotes multilingualism through the offering of:

10.1.1 English as Home Language for learners in Grades 1-7.

10.1.2 Afrikaans as First Additional Language for learners in Gr. 1 – 7.

10.1.3 Xhosa as conversational option after school

10.2 In general the school takes reasonable steps to enlighten learners regarding the importance of multilingualism and to promote the acquiring of respect for languages other than their home language.

10.3 The school library is equipped to support the language programme of the School. Provision is made yearly in the budget for the purchase of new reading material in both Afrikaans and English. Illustrated material in Xhosa is also procured for the purpose of promoting multilingualism.

