

NAME OF SCHOOL: SOUTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

Language Policy

Date approved:		Date policy will take effect:	16-01-2012	Date of next review:	2013
Developed by:	Policy Development and Review Committee (PDRC) of the School Governing Body (SGB)				
Approved by:	School Governing Body				
Responsible Body:	School Governing Body				
Supporting documents, procedures and forms for this policy:	Legislation (see below) Annexure 1				
References and legislation:	The South African Schools Act (1996) as amended The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) National Education Policy Act (Act 27 of 1996) Language in Education Policy in terms of Section 3(4)(m) of the National Education Policy Act (Act 27 of 1996) Language Policy for Public Schools - Government Notice 1701 in Government Gazette No. 18546 on 19 December 1997				
Scope:	SGB, School Management Team (SMT), Educator Staff, Learners				
Expiry date of the policy:	NEVER				

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1. Purpose of the Language Policy

The main purpose is to ensure that learners are not disadvantaged by being forced to learn in a language not spoken or understood by the majority. This policy will ensure that the school makes the right language choices to ensure the best possible development of learners in the school.

Further, this policy:

- recognises our language and cultural diversity, and therefore promotes multilingualism;
- promotes non-racialism and makes possible communication across communities irrespective of their colour, language or religion;
- promotes respect for different cultural backgrounds and languages other than one's own;
- redresses the neglect of languages disadvantaged before democracy in school education
- raises the dignity and status of formerly disadvantaged languages;
- minimizes the gap between home language and the language of learning and teaching (LoLT).

As such, the policy assumes that the learning of more than one language should be a general practice and principle in our society. That is to say, being multilingual should be an important characteristic of being South African.

2. Application and Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to the entire school; the SGB, school management, educator staff and the learners.

3. Principles of the Language Policy

- 3.1 No form of racial discrimination may be practised in applying the language policy arrived at in accordance with all legal procedures.

- 3.2 A recognised Sign Language has the status of an official language for purposes of learning at a public school.
- 3.3 A learner in a public school shall have the right to instruction in the language of his or her choice where this is reasonably practicable (this is explained below).
- 3.4 Language ability tests may not be used as an admission requirement to learners at any public school.
- 3.5 No learner may be punished for expressing himself/herself in a language that is not the official language of the particular school. Within the practical restrictions, a learner has the right to instruction in a language of his/ her choice.
- 3.6 Admission is based on the premise that learners have studied both the languages offered at the school.
- 3.7 Consideration must be taken into account for resources (both human and physical) and class units, when offering additional languages.

4. Official Language of SOUTHVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

The decisions regarding the official language and the other languages offered by the school are made by the parent body of the school, in keeping with the legal instructions of the country and in consideration of what is “practicable”.

“Practicable” takes into consideration issues like:

- the demographics of the school (the school population) ;
- the profile of the learners and their language needs;
- the choice of languages made by the School Governing Body as the language policy of the school;
- the number of learners who choose to be taught in a particular language; and
- the resources that the school has to offer the languages that have been selected.

The SGB, with the parent body, decide the following:

The Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) in our school will be **ENGLISH**

The Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) for all Learning Areas will be **ENGLISH** except for *[AFRIKAANS]*

ENGLISH will be provided as the school's Home Language.

AFRIKAANS is the choice in terms of the First Additional Language.

5. Aspects of the School's Language Policy

5.1 Spoken Communication

- All meetings in the school will be conducted in the LoLT. However, where a translator is required, the school and the parent can work together to arrange for the services of a translator.
- All verbal feedback to parents regarding their children's progress will be conducted in the LoLT.

5.2 Written Communication

- All correspondence will be through the medium of *English* namely, school brochures, bulletins on bulletin boards, timetables, letters, newspaper articles .

5.3 Future Planning:

- Where at least 40 learners in Grades 8 to 12 require to be taught in a language not offered at the school, an application can be made to the HOD for the provision of a suitable educator.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 The School Governing Body

- The SGB is mandated to develop the Language Policy of the school in accordance with legislative framework. The SGB approves and adopts the policy and monitors the implementation of the policy in school.

6.2 School Management Team (SMT)

- The SMT sees to the actual implementation of the policy.
- The SMT reports to the SGB regarding implementation and any challenges or unforeseen events relating thereto.

6.3 Educators

- Educators will adopt the role of facilitators - guiding, allowing and encouraging the learners to discover the world of language and communication for themselves.
- Educators will strive to apply the integrated communicative approach which involves, among others, using diverse teaching/facilitation methods to inspire the minds of their learners, the presentation of genuine source material to make the study of language relevant and meaningful, and to assist learners to develop their communication skills.
- Educators will use the LoLT in class, except when *Afrikaans is* being taught. Learners must respond in the LoLT in order to improve their command of the LoLT.

6.4 Learners

- Learners are to commit themselves to the multilingual culture of the country and do their best to achieve proficiency in the languages offered by the school.
- Learners are to use every opportunity to improve language skills in the LoLT.
- While learners may communicate in their language of choice outside the classroom, they are encouraged to use and socialise in the LoLT to enhance their LoLT skills.

7. Conclusion

- The school will at all times endeavour to ensure that its systems cater for the requirements necessary to implement the policy.
- LTSM will be continually budgeted for and acquired to meet the needs of the school and the implementation of this policy.
- The school will at all times endeavour to appoint suitably qualified educators to implement this policy.

Signed by

Chairperson of the SGB: D.COOPER _____

Date: _____

The Principal: R.B.NAIDOO _____

Date: _____

IDSO: MRS. M.ZWANE _____

Date: _____

DISTRICT DIRECTOR: _____

Date: _____

