

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



EXEMPLAR LANGUAGE POLICY

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1. TITLE OF THE POLICY:

LANGUAGE POLICY OF Erasmia Primary School

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1 January 2018

2. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:

1 August 2021

3. REVISION HISTORY

As amended on: (Specify dates)
• 25 August 2018
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4. PREAMBLE

South Africa is a country with a diversity of cultures and languages. In recognition of this, the emphasises of any language policy should be on the promotion of multilingualism, the development of the official languages, and a respect for all languages used in the country, including South African Sign Language and the languages referred to in the South African Constitution.

This policy attempts to protect and advance our diverse cultures and languages and uphold the rights of all learners, parents and educators, and promote their acceptance of responsibility in facilitating the underlying principles which are:

- The maintaining of the home language/s while providing access to and the effective acquisition of additional language(s), in keeping with the Department's position that an additive approach to bilingualism is to be seen as the normal orientation of our language-in-education policy.
- The right to choose the language of learning and teaching is vested in the individual. This right has, however, to be exercised within the overall framework of the obligation on the education system to promote multilingualism.
- No form of racial discrimination may be practised in implementing policy determined under this section.
- A recognised Sign Language has the status of an official language for purposes of learning at a public school.
- The governing body of a public school may determine the language policy of the school subject to the Constitution and any applicable provincial law.

5. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

- 6.1 To promote and develop all official languages.
- 6.2 To establish multilingualism as an approach to language in education.
- 6.3 To identify and determine a Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) as well as the approved language/s to be offered to learners at the school.
- 6.4 To ensure that no form of discrimination takes place on the basis of language.

6. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

7.1 DEFINITIONS

No.	Term	Definition
7.1.1	“the Act”	Means the South African Schools Act, Act No.84 of 1996 as amended
7.1.2	“the School”	Refers to (Name of school)
7.1.3	learner	Any person registered to receive education at the school
7.1.4	multilingualism	The ability to use several languages
7.1.5	Home Language	A preferred or first language of choice that a learner may offer for learning and teaching purposes
7.1.6	First Additional Language.	An alternative or an additional language to Home Language that a learner may offer for learning and teaching purposes

7.2 ACRONYMS

No.	Acronyms	Explanation
7.2.1	LoLT (Language of Learning and Teaching)	Refers to the approved language that will be used as a medium of instruction in the school and must be an official language with a valid syllabus at Home or First Additional language level.
7.2.3	HL	Home Language
7.2.4	FAL	First Additional Language

7. APPLICATION AND SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- 8.1 The language policy applies to all learners and educators and covers the Language of Learning and Teaching and Language as a subject.

8. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- 9.1 Constitution of South Africa, (Act No. 108 of 1996 as amended)
 9.2 South African Schools Act, (Act No. 84 of 1996 as amended)
 9.3 National Education Policy Act 1996, (Act No. 27 of 1996)
 9.4 Gauteng School Education Act, 1995 (Act No. 6 of 1995) as amended)

9. RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROVINCIAL CIRCULARS

- 10.1 Language in Education Policy, published in terms of section 3(4)(m) of the National Education Policy Act 1996, (Act 27 of 1996).
 10.2 Norms and Standards regarding language policy published in terms of section 6(1) of the South African Schools Act, (Act 84 of 1996).
 10.3 Circular 20 of 2009 – Registration Procedures for Entry to the National Senior Certificate Examinations (Gr.10 to 12)

10. POLICY STATEMENTS

11.1 KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN DEVELOPING A POLICY

The school recognises the diversity of cultures and languages in our country and considers the following realities to shape the language policy:

- a. The thorough development of a child's language skill is a reliable predictor of future cognitive competence.
- b. Both the Home Language and Language of Learning and Teaching are important because the Home Language plays the primary role in developing literacy and

thinking skills and is of importance in enhancing the protection and further development of the indigenous language, while the Language of Learning (in particular English) is the one in which learners must master educational concepts, and provides a platform to participate and engage meaningfully in the information age on a global stage.

- c. The University Language of Instruction in South Africa is predominantly English; however it is necessary for schools to promote other indigenous languages for the purpose of learner mobility and access.
- d. The promotion of multilingualism enhances opportunity for learners to access jobs and participate in the socio – economic development of the country.

11.2 LANGUAGE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING (LoLT)

- a. Erasmia Primary School is a single medium school.
- b. Based on the choices made by the parent population of the school and whether the school is single/dual medium, the language of learning and teaching at the school is English

11.3 LANGUAGES AS SUBJECTS

- a. Based on the choices made by the parent population, the school shall offer the following official languages as additional languages Afrikaans and SePedi.
- b. The school offers/does not offer a foreign language. In cases where the school offers foreign languages, the languages should be specified.
- c. Where possible, all languages shall receive equitable time and resource allocation.
- d. Use either paragraph (i) or (ii) to suit the context of your school.
 - (i) In the case of a **Primary School**, a language will be offered where there are at least 40 learners in Grades 1 to 7 requesting for it. In cases where there are less than 40 learners requesting a language in a given grade not already offered by a school in a particular school district, the head of the provincial department of education will determine how the needs of those learners will be met.
 - (ii) In the case of a **Secondary School**, a language will be offered where there are at least 35 learners in Grades 8 to 12 requesting for it. In cases where there are less than 35 learners requesting a language in a given grade not already offered by a school in a particular school district, the head of the provincial department of education will determine how the needs of those learners will be met.

11.4 LANGUAGE BY SCHOOL TYPE

11.4.1 PRIMARY SCHOOL

In all phases, the school will offer at least two official languages provided that one of the official languages is offered as a Home Language (HL) and another as a First Additional Language (FAL). One of the official languages will be a Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT).

What follows here is an example based on a scenario where parents have opted for the LoLT to be English.

a. Foundation Phase (Gr. 1 – 3):

At Erasmia Primary School, all learners from Grades 1 to 3 will offer English as a Home Language. Afrikaans will be offered as a First Additional Language. Code switching shall be encouraged to assist the learner's transition from the home language to the LoLT.

b. Intermediate phase (Grade 4-6):

All learners in Grades 4 to 6 shall offer English as a Home Language and Afrikaans will be offered as a First Additional Language.

c. Senior phase (Grade 7-9):

All learners in Grades 7 to 9 shall offer English as a Home Language and Afrikaans will be offered as a First Additional Language.

11.4.2 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

N/A

11.4 LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION

11.4.1 School reports as well as official written communication issued by the school will be in English, unless the correspondence is concerning one of the other languages.

11.4.2 Articles in the school newsletter will be written in the languages indicated in (11.2) and (11.3)

11.4.3 General parents meetings shall be addressed in the languages indicated in (11.2) and (11.3) and where necessary an interpreter may be utilised.

11.4.4 No learner shall be punished for expressing himself/herself in a language which is not the language of learning and teaching at the school.

11.5 LANGUAGE AND ADMISSIONS

11.5.1 Language competence testing shall not be used as an admissions requirement at the school.

11.5.2 A parent shall exercise the minor learner's language rights on behalf of the minor learner on application for admission to the school.

11.5.3 In cases where the school uses the language of learning and teaching chosen by the parent for the learner and where there is place available for the learner in the grade applied for, the school shall admit the learner subject to the admission requirements being met.

11.5.4 In cases where the desired language of learning and teaching is not offered by the school, a parent may decide for the learner to be taught in a language medium already offered by the school, provided that the learner and parent do not demand to be taught in the desired LoLT after admissions. On application for admissions language choices are expected to be made.

11. SHORT TITLE

This policy shall be called **Language Policy of Erasmia Primary School**

12. APPROVAL:

Recommended by: (Principal) (print name)		Signature:	
Date:			
Approved by: (SGB Chairperson) (Print name)		Signature:	
Date:			
Verification by GDE: (District Director) (Print Name)		Signature:	
Date of Verification			
Certified by :(Print Name)		Signature:	
Date			