

VEREENIGING GIMNASIUM



LANGUAGE POLICY

1. TITLE OF THE POLICY:

LANGUAGE POLICY OF VEREENIGING GIMNASIUM

2. EFFECTIVE DATE:

4 December 2019

3. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:

4 December 2021

4. REVISION HISTORY

As amended on: (Specify dates)
4 December 2019, 5 November 2020

5. PREAMBLE

South Africa is a country with a diversity of cultures and languages. In recognition of this, the emphasis 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.

6. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

- 6.1 To promote and develop all official languages within the boundaries of languages taught at Vereeniging Gimnasium, i.e. Afrikaans HL and English FAL.
- 6.2 To establish multilingualism as an approach to language in education with Afrikaans and English development.
- 6.3 To identify and determine the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) as Afrikaans and the approved language/s to be offered to learners at Vereeniging Gimnasium to be Afrikaans HL and English FAL.
- 6.4 To ensure that no form of discrimination takes place on the basis of language.

7. 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
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8. 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.

9. 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)

10. 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)

11. 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 and Teaching 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 Universal 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. Vereeniging Gimnasium is a single medium school.
- b. Based on the choices made by the parent population of the school the language of learning and teaching at Vereeniging Gimnasium is Afrikaans.

11.3 LANGUAGES AS SUBJECTS

- a. Based on the choices made by the parent population, the school shall offer the following official language as additional language : English.
- b. The school does not offer a foreign language.
- c. Afrikaans HL and English FAL shall receive equitable time and resource allocation.
- d. Vereeniging Gimnasium is a Secondary School where Afrikaans HL and English FAL language will be offered where there are at least 35 learners in Grades 8 to 12 requesting for it.

11.4 LANGUAGE BY SCHOOL TYPE

11.4.1 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- a. Senior phase (Grade 8-9):

All learners in Grades 8 and 9 shall offer Afrikaans as a Home Language and English will be offered as a First Additional Language.

- b. Further Education and Training phase (Gr.10 -12)

- (i) The school will assist Grade 10-12 learners to make the correct subject and language choices and combinations leading to the National Senior Certificate (NSC).
- (ii) The school will ensure that for a NSC a learner must offer at least two official languages selected as stipulated in the policy document, *The National Senior Certificate- a qualification at Level 4 on the National Qualification Framework (NQF)* provided that one of the official languages is offered as a Home Language (i.e. Afrikaans) and another one as First Additional Language level (i.e. English) and provided that one of the official languages is the LoLT i.e. Afrikaans.
- (iii) The school will ensure that learners do not choose the following subject/language combinations which are not allowed for the National Senior Certificate:
 - (a) isiZulu, isiXhosa, SiSwati and isiNdebele;
 - (b) Sepedi, Sesotho and Setswana; and
 - (c) The same language as Home and First and Second Additional Language.

11.5 LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION

- 11.4.1 School reports as well as official written communication issued by the school will be in Afrikaans, 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. Disciplinary Hearings will be held in the languages indicated in (11.2) and (11.3) and an interpreter may be requested.

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.

12. SHORT TITLE

This policy shall be called **Language Policy of Vereeniging Gimnasium.**