

ROOSEVELT ACADEMY SECONDARY

LANGUAGE POLICY



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1. LANGUAGE POLICY

2. EFFECTIVE DATE	01/12/2024	3. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	01/12/2025
4. REVISION HISTORY	*		
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5. 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.

6. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

To promote and develop all official languages.

- a) To establish multilingualism as an approach to language in education.

- b) 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.
- c) To ensure that no form of discrimination takes place on the basis of language.

7. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

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 the 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

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)

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 No. 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 No. 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

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 participates in the socio – economic development of the country.

12. LANGUAGE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

The language of teaching in our school will be English. Learners who speak other languages as home language will be accommodated as far as humanly possible within our capacity.

13. LANGUAGE OFFERED AS SUBJECT

In addition to English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language will be offered as subjects, with the intention that the third official language of the region will also be offered in the future. The time allocated will be 4,5 hours per week, according to the guidelines of the Education Department, English and Afrikaans.

14. LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION

- 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.
- Articles in the school newsletter will be written in the languages indicated in (12) and (13)
- General parents meetings shall be addressed in the languages indicated in (12) and (13) and where necessary an interpreter may be utilised.
- No learner shall be punished for expressing himself/herself in a language which is not the language of learning and teaching at the school.

15. LANGUAGE AND ADMISSIONS

- Language competence testing shall not be used as an admission requirement at the school.
- A parent shall exercise the minor learner's language rights on behalf of the minor learner on application for admission to the school.
- 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.
- 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.

APPROVAL

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