



LANGUAGE POLICY

PREAMBLE

It is primarily by interaction through language that knowledge, skills, attitudes and values of groups and individuals within an institution are developed. The importance of language in the education process can thus scarcely be overemphasized. The starting point for any language policy must therefore be the educational process in the broadest sense, i.e. the learning process which students undertake, the interaction between themselves, their teachers and others who support their learning, and the general organization and management of the school to support the entire activity. Equally important, though, are socio-political factors in our society and the need to build and maintain sound values and relationships, given the nature of our community.

This Language Policy has been drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996, the South African Schools Act, Act 84 of 1996, the National Education Policy Act, Act 27 of 1996; applicable provincial legislation on school education; and judgements of the South African courts.

LANGUAGE OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION IN THE SCHOOL

While Pelham Senior Primary School is a dual medium school, English and Afrikaans will be used as the medium of instruction depending on the child being in the English or Afrikaans language stream. Pelham Senior Primary School nevertheless enrolls learners with divergent linguistic capacities. To serve this diverse school community equitably, the School's language policy needs to take account not only of the language ability of speakers of English/Afrikaans as a mother tongue, but also of speakers of various local dialects and varieties of English, bilingual speakers of English/Afrikaans and a number of people for whom English/Afrikaans is not their first language. In order to give effect to the above, the following decisions were taken by the Governing Body:

- **Medium of Instruction**

The medium of instruction in the school is English for English speakers and Afrikaans for Afrikaans speakers. In all official communications and learning materials, the school and staff will take steps to ensure that the learners enrolled in English medium classes and Afrikaans for learners enrolled in Afrikaans medium classes. In all official communications as well as learning materials, every effort will be made by the staff of the school to address learners and their parents in the language selected by the parent as the LOLT (Language of Learning and Teaching) for the learner concerned.

- **Languages offered at the School**

- Only English/Afrikaans will be offered as subjects at First Language level.
- Afrikaans/English and isiZulu will be offered at First Additional language level. Learners will be enabled in Grade 4 to select the First Additional Language of their choice based on their proficiency in said language.

- **Process for Review**

The School shall review the existing Language Policy whenever the Governing Body deems this to be necessary. If the Policy is changed at any time it will be done in such a way so as not to disadvantage learners at the school who are already following a course in a particular

language, in which case, a gradual phasing out of a language (or alternately the phasing in thereof) will need to be implemented.

- **Language of Assessment**

The Language of Assessment shall be English/Afrikaans for all subjects, other than for Languages other than English/Afrikaans.

- **Plans to accommodate the learning needs of minority language groups within the school**

All learners will be exposed to two languages as part of their curriculum and the timetable will be structured in such a way that learners will be exposed to a First as well as a First Additional Language as part of the curriculum.

Learners who represent minority language groups but have been accepted at Pelham Senior Primary School, will in as far as the curriculum allows, be supported by teachers, specialists and fellow learners in the acquisition of the LOLT of their parents' choice. Should the learner concerned require specialized placement in order to enable the mastery of a language, this will be facilitated by the School.

- **Plans to enhance the status of all official South African languages at the school**

- The Principal shall liaise from time to time with Principals of larger Senior Phase Schools to determine whether our Language Policy is aligned with those of the majority of schools in the area
- The Principal shall ensure that sufficient funds are set aside each year for Learning and Teaching Support Materials in all First and First Additional Languages when the School's annual Budget is determined
- The Principal (or delegate) shall monitor the academic progress of the school as a whole to determine if Teaching and Learning are being adversely affected by the school's Language Policy.

- **Plans to Accommodate Language Learning Needs of the School**

Based on annual enrolment figures the principal shall determine the number of staff members required to teach the various languages offered and implement the School's language policy.

- The Principal shall ensure that the Staff complement is adequate to carry out such policy
- Staff members will be made aware of the channels to be followed should any learner experience significant barriers to learning in the mastery of their chosen LOLT, in order that short term or long term help can be facilitated.

Signed:  (Principal)

Signed:  (GB Chairperson)

Date: 20190614