

ALBERVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

LANGUAGE POLICY



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1. LANGUAGE POLICY

2. EFFECTIVE DATE	01/03/2025	3. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW	01/03/2026
4. REVISION HISTORY	*		
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5. PREAMBLE

The Governing Body of a public school may determine the language policy of the school subject to the Constitution, SASA and any applicable provincial law, provided that the language policy of a public school must be limited to one or more of the official languages of the Republic as provided in section 6(1) of the Constitution.

The Governing Body of a public school, when determining the language policy of the school or any amendment thereof, must be satisfied that the policy or the amendment thereof takes into account the language needs, in general, of the broader community in the education district in which the public school is situated, and must take into account factors including, but not limited to—

- the best interests of the child, with emphasis on equality as provided for in section 9 of the Constitution and equity;
- section 6(2) of the Constitution;
- section 29(2) of the Constitution;
- the changing number of learners who speak the language of learning and teaching at the public school;
- the need for effective use of classroom space and resources of the public school; and
- the enrolment trends of the public school.

The Governing Body must review the language policy every three years or whenever the factors above have changed, when circumstances so require, or at the request of the Head of Department.

The Head of Department may, where it is practicable to do so direct a public school to adopt more than one language of instruction.

The Head of Department, in determining whether it is practicable for a public school to have more than one language of instruction, must take into account factors including, but not limited to:

- the best interests of the child, with emphasis on equality as provided for in section 9 of the Constitution and equity;

- the changing number of learners who speak the language of learning and teaching at the public school;
- the need for effective use of classroom space and resources of the public school; and
- the language needs, in general, of the broader community in the education district in which the public school is situated.

The Head of Department may not act in the above unless he or she has:

- in writing, informed the school and the Governing Body of his or her intention and his or her reasons therefor;
- notified the parents associated with the school, and the community in which the school is situated, of his or her intention so to act and the reasons therefor—
 - ✓ by means of a notice in at least one newspaper circulating in the area where the school is situated, if any newspapers circulate in that area;
 - ✓ by causing the principal of the school to—
 - hand to every learner a notice containing the relevant information; and
 - instruct the learners to hand the notice to their parents; and
 - ✓ by means of any other acceptable form of communication that will ensure that the information is spread as widely as possible;
- granted the school, the governing body, the parents associated with the school, and the community in which the school is situated, a reasonable opportunity to make representations to him or her in relation to such action;
- conducted a public hearing, on reasonable notice, to enable the community to make representations to him or her in relation to such action; and
- given due consideration to any such representations received.

The Head of Department must:

- inform the school and the Governing Body of his or her decision and
- notify the parents associated with the schools, and the communities in which the schools are situated, of the decision.

If the Head of Department direct a public school to adopt more than one language of instruction, he or she must, before his or her directive is implemented, take all necessary steps to ensure that the public school concerned receives the necessary resources, including, but not limited to:

- educators; and

- learning and teaching support material, to enable that public school to provide adequate tuition in the additional language or languages of instruction.

If the Governing Body is not satisfied with the directive of the Head of Department, the Governing Body may appeal against the directive to the Member of the Executive Council within 14 days after receiving the directive.

If an appeal contemplated above has been received, the Member of the Executive Council must, within 14 days after receiving such appeal, consider and decide the matter and inform the Governing Body of the outcome of the appeal.

- While the Member of the Executive Council considers the appeal, the language policy of the public school shall remain valid and applicable, and only the provisions that are the subject of the appeal shall be suspended pending the finalisation of the appeal process.

6. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

To promote and develop all official languages.

- To establish multilingualism as an approach to language in education.
- 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.
- 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)
- 9.4 BELA Bill

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

LANGUAGE OFFERED AS SUBJECT

In addition to English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language will be offered as subjects. The time allocated will be 4,5 hours per week, according to the guidelines of the Education Department, English and Afrikaans.

13. 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.

14. 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 GDE: Cluster Manager (Print Name)		Signature:	
Date of Verification			
Verification by GDE: Circuit Manager (Print Name)		Signature:	
Date of Verification			
Certified by : District Director (Print Name)		Signature:	
Date:			