



# GOLDEN GROVE PRIMARY & PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

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# LANGUAGE POLICY

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## **1. Introduction**

This document is the language policy of Golden Grove Primary School, as approved by the School Governing Body. The 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 ('SASA'); Department of Education, Language in Education Policy, 14 July 1997; the Western Cape Provincial School Education Act, Act 12 of 1997; the Revised National Curriculum Statement Grades R-9; the National Education Policy Act, Act 27 of 1996; applicable provincial legislation on school education; the Norms and Standards for Language Policy in Public Schools, 1997 (GN 1701 dated 19 December 1997) and the guidelines of the Pan South African Language Board.

We affirm that multilingualism and equitable language rights are protected in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and that the promotion of multilingualism demonstrates our commitment to nurturing respect for diversity amongst our learners.

This policy informs the language planning and language management at Golden Grove Primary School in the context of classroom teaching and learning to fulfil our mission to create global citizens.

## **2. Background**

In February 2002 the Western Cape Education Minister made public his request to the provincial Department of Education to establish a Ministerial Task Team to develop a strategy for implementing home language instruction during the first 7 years of schooling in the province. This request was grounded in the belief that the intended strategy, if implemented, will go a long way toward ensuring effective education, bearing in mind the role of mother-tongue education (MTE) in the cognitive environment of primary school children.

## **3. Factors considered**

The following factors in drafting this policy, have been considered:

- The interests of the learners
- The interests of the school community
- The interests of the community in which the school is located
- The capacity of the school
- The resources and staff available to the school
- International best practice with regard to class sizes and language in education, with specific reference to the importance of mother tongue education.



#### **4. Admission**

All official languages enjoy equal status and respect and everyone has the right to receive education in the official language of his/her choice in public schools where education is reasonably practicable.

Language is not an admission requirement to Golden Grove Primary School.

#### **5. Language of Teaching and Learning (LOTL)**

Golden Grove Primary School is an English-medium school, meaning that the primary language of instruction and behaviour management for all subjects, with the exception of additional languages taught, shall be English (Home Language).

Proficiency in the additional language offered may be used as an indicator for progression or promotion alongside a learner's results in literacy and maths, the primary subjects used to determine progression and promotion.

5.1 In terms of the act the Governing Body determines the language policy. This is the language to be used for teaching and learning in the school i.e. language of instruction.

5.2 The language of instruction will be the language spoken by the majority. At Golden Grove Primary School (GGPS) the current language of the majority is English, therefore the school is regarded as a single-medium school with English as the language of instruction. Additional languages will be offered as subjects.

5.3 Requirements for languages as subjects:

5.3.1 Two approved languages, one of which has to be the official language. The approved language of instruction is English (Home Language), with Afrikaans (First Additional Language) as the approved subject.

5.3.2 IsiXhosa will be introduced as a third language from Grade 1 as of 2020.

5.4 All assessments and examinations will be conducted in English, except where First Additional Language and Second Additional Language assessments are written.

#### **6. Languages of communication**

6.1 Daily announcements are done in English.

6.2 English is used in correspondence to parents.

6.3 Meetings are held in English.

6.4 The languages in which the school is managed is English.



## **7. Remedial education with regard to language**

A remedial system exists at Golden Grove Primary School whereby learners with language problems can benefit. Learners from Gr. R to Gr. 7 are withdrawn for remedial education by an educator assigned for this purpose. Educators provide didactic help to Gr. R to Gr. 7 learners. In cases where more specialised attention is required, The educator may contact a parent/s regarding intervention and suggest further professional assistance for a learner.

## **8. Promotion of multilingualism**

In general the school takes reasonable steps to enlighten learners regarding the importance of multilingualism and to promote the acquiring of respect for languages other than their home language.

The school library is well equipped to support the language programme of the School. Provision is made yearly in the budget for the purchase of new reading material in both Afrikaans and English. Illustrated material in isiXhosa is also procured for the purpose of promoting multilingualism.

All educators at the school take reasonable steps to inform learners on the importance of multilingualism and to promote respect for other languages besides the home language and/or medium of instruction.

## **9. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **9.1 The School Governing Body (SGB)**

- The SGB is mandated to develop the Language Policy of Golden Grove Primary School in accordance with the legislative framework.
- The SGB approves and adopts the policy and monitors its implementation.

### **9.2 The School Management Team (SMT)**

- The SMT sees to the actual implementation of the policy.
- The SMT reports to the SGB regarding the implementation and any challenges or unforeseen events relating to the policy.

### **9.3 The educators**

- The educators teach and encourage learners to discover the world of language and communication for themselves as prescribed by the Department of Basic Education.
- Educators will use the LOLT in class except where Afrikaans or isiXhosa are taught.



9.4 The learners

- Learners are to commit themselves to the multilingual culture of the country and do their best to achieve proficiency in the language offered at Golden Grove Primary School.
- Learners are to use every opportunity available to improve their skills in the LOLT.
- While learners may communicate in the language of their choice outside of the classroom, they are encouraged to use and socialise in the LOLT to enhance their skills.

9.5 The parents and broader school community

- Parents are encouraged to develop their child/ward's language skills at home.
- Where intervention is necessary, parents are expected to assist with any intervention which is sent home.

Signed at: GOLDEN GROVE PRIMARY on this 18<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY 20 20



pp School Governing Body Chairperson



School Principal

