

LANGUAGE POLICY
HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL
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LANGUAGE POLICY

1 Preamble:

It is primarily by interaction through language that knowledge, skills, attitudes and values of groups and individuals within an institution are developed. It is a form of respect and good manners to address children in a language they all understand. The importance of language in the educational process can thus scarcely be over-emphasized. 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.

2 Language of Teaching, Learning and Communication in the School:

While **HOLY CROSS PRIMARY** School is an institution in which the medium of instruction and language of office is **English**, it 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 as a mother tongue, but also bilingual speakers of English and a number of people for whom English is not their first language. In order to give effect to the above, the following principles were put in place after acceptance by the School Governing Body at their meeting on 13 October 2016.

3 Medium of Instruction:

The medium of instruction in the school is **English**.

4 Languages offered at the School:

- 4.1 **English** will be offered as a subject at First Language level only.
- 4.2 **Afrikaans** will be offered at Second Language level, and where numbers warrant it, consideration will be given to running a parallel first language course.
- 4.3 In all cases, the ability of the school to offer a language at all, or in any particular year group, taking numbers, financing and staffing capacities into account, will be a determining factor in the offering of a language. A viable class will normally be regarded as one with 28 learners and with a maximum of 60 per grade. Where languages are offered as a subject they shall enjoy an equitable time allocation in the School's timetable, relative to the other full subjects in that grade.

5 Process for Review:

The School shall review the existing Language Policy whenever a new Governing Body is formed. If the Policy is changed, it will be done in such a way as not to disadvantage learners already at the school who are already following a course in a particular language.

6 Language of Assessment:

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

7 Language of Communication with and between Pupils:

The language of conversation in classrooms will be **English** other than during Afrikaans Second Language periods. During break periods pupils will be free to communicate in a language of their choice.

8 Language of Communication with Parents:

The Language of communication with parents shall be **English**.

9 Plans to Develop Multilingualism:

9.1 The school library is incrementally purchasing books to suit the language needs of the school.

9.2 Literacy Week – All languages included in the display.

9.3 Arts and Culture – Lessons include song, dance and artwork from 3 major language groups in the school.

10 Plans to Accommodate Language Learning Needs of Minority Groups:

10.1 Peers help translate if a child is struggling.

10.2 Teacher Assistants help with reading and assist those with learning problems

11 Plans to Enhance the Status of all Official South African Languages:

11.1 Awareness Campaign – Posters, Maps, etc.

Should you believe that grounds exist for your child to be exempted from any policy (or a portion of the policy) you may apply for such exemption by completing and submitting an Application for exemption from a policy form. The form is available on request from the school.

REVISED AND UPDATED: 20 June 2022.