LAERSKOOL VRYBURG

LANGUAGE POLICY

LANGUAGE POLICY OF LAERSKOOL VRYBURG PRIMARY

Date of effect			
Date of approval by SGB Chairperson		Date of next review	
Date of verification by Circuit Manager		Date (s) of amendments	
Approved by SGB Chairperson Print Name		Signature SGB Chairperson	
Verified by Circuit Manager Print Name		Signature Circuit Manager	
Legislative Framework	1. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), as amended. 2. The South African Schools Act, 1996 (Act 84 of 1996) as amended. 3. National Policy Act, 1996 (Act 27 of 1996) as amended. 4. Employment of Educators Act, 1998 (Act 76 of 1998). 5. Education Policy Act, 1998 (Act 12 of 1998) 6. North West Schools Act 3 OF 1998 7. Refugees Act, 1998 (Act 130 of 1998). 8. Aliens Control Act, 1991 (Act 96 of 1991). 9. Admission of Learners to Public Schools (General Notice 4138 of 2001). 10. Education White Paper 6: Special Needs Education, 2001. 11. Education White Paper 5, 2004 12. ANNEXURE DBE CIRCULAR 1 0F 2020 13. ANNEXURE 20190916 PHAKAMISA 14. BELA ACT (2025)		

Language Policy

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1. PURPOSE OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY

1.1 The main purpose of the Language Policy is to clarify Laerskool Vryburg Primary school's position on the languages of instruction in provision of education to our learners in line with the constitutional requirements of the Republic of South Africa and the South African Schools Act. The main purpose is to ensure that learners are not disadvantaged by being forced to learn in a language not spoken or understood by the majority.

1 .2 This policy will ensure that the Governing Body makes the right language choices to develop the full potential of all the learners.

1 .3 This policy will further facilitate communication across the barriers of culture and language and will create respect for all languages

1.4 This policy recognizes language and cultural diversity and promotes multilingualism. As such, this policy assumes that the learning of more than one language should be a general practice and principle in our society.

2. APPLICATION AND SCOPE

The Language Policy of Laerskool Vryburg Primary applies to the entire school community: The School Governing Body (SGB), the School Management Team (SMT), the Educators and the Learners.

2.1 Factors Considered

In drafting the policy, the following factors have been considered.

2.1.1 The interest of the learners.
2.1.2 The interest or the school community.
2.1.3 The interest of the community in which the school is located.
2.1.4 The capacity of the school.
2.1.5 The resources and staff available.
2.1.6 International best practice with regards to the class size and language in education, with specific reference to the importance of mother tongue education.

3 PRINCIPLES OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY

3.1 A learner in a public school shall have the right to instruction in the language of his/her choice where it is reasonably practicable.

(See explanation under 4)

3.2 No form of racial discrimination may be practiced in applying the language policy arrived at in accordance with all legal procedures.

3.3 Language ability tests may not be used as an admission requirement to learners at any public school.

3.4 No learner may be punished for expressing himself/herself in a language that is not the official language of Laerskool Vryburg Primary. Within the practical restrictions, a learner has the right to instruction in a language of his/ her choice.

4 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF LAERSKOOL VRYBURG PRIMARY SCHOOL

The decisions regarding the official language and the other languages offered by the school are made by the SGB of the school, in keeping with the legal instructions of the country and in consideration of what is “practicable”.

“Practicable” takes into consideration issues like:

- the demographics of the school (the school population);
- the profile of the learners and their language needs;
- the choice of languages made by the School Governing Body as the language policy of the school;
- the number of learners who choose to be taught in a particular language; and
- the resources that the school has to offer the languages that have been selected.

4.1 The Parents voted that the Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) shall be Afrikaans and English.
4.2 Afrikaans is therefore regarded as Laerskool Vryburg Primary Home Language.
4.3 In addition, the First Additional Language (FAL) shall be English.
4.4 Further, the Parents voted that Setwana and English shall be taught to Grade 4-7 learners as a second and third Home Language.
4.5 In addition, Setwana speaking learners shall take Setwana or English as their Home Language, if there is sufficient interest in the language.
4.6 Learners who chose English Home Language will have Afrikaans as a First Additional Language.
4.7 Learners who chose Setswana Home Language will have English as a First Additional Language.

5. PROCEDURE TO CHANGE THE OFFICAL LANGUAGE OF LAERSKOOL VRYBURG PRIMARY.

5.1 The following procedure will apply when the Parents would like to motivate / request a change in the First Additional Language (FAL) of Laerskool Vryburg Primary:

(i) An official request, in writing, must be submitted to the School Governing Body Chairman by a parent(s) whose children are currently enrolled at Laerskool Vryburg Primary.

(ii) Upon receipt of the request the issue will be discussed by the School Governing Body and tabled at the next Annual General Meeting for discussion and voting by the Parents.

(iii) If the Parents voted in favour of the change the School Governing Body will apply to the Department of Education to change the First Additional Language of Laerskool Vryburg.

6. ASPECTS OF LAERSKOOL VRYBURG'S POLICY

6.1 Spoken Communication

All meetings in the school will be conducted in the LOLT. However, should a translator be required, the school and the relevant parent can work together to arrange for an interpreter.

- All verbal feedback to parents regarding their children's progress will be conducted in the LOLT.

6.2 Written Communication

- All correspondence will be through the medium of Afrikaans and English namely school brochures, newsletters, bulletin boards, timetables, letters etc.

6.3 Future Planning

- Where at least 40 learners, in any grade, from Grades 4-7 require to be taught in a language not offered at Laerskool Vryburg Primary, an application can be made to the HOD for the provision of a suitable teacher.

6.4 Admission of New Learners

- When new learners, whose mother tongue is not Afrikaans or English are admitted to Laerskool Vryburg.
- T heir level of Afrikaans and English will be assessed by the School's Remedial Department to enable the teachers to assist them with.
  a) Extra Afrikaans/English (free, after hours), or
  b) Additional support in Afrikaans/English (during class time, for as long as it is necessary to make them competent).

6.5 Immigrants

- Any non-mother tongue speaker of Afrikaans, English or Setswana who enters the country is granted Immigrant status by the Department of Home Affairs from the time of entering the country.
- Immigrants are not formally assessed in Afrikaans, Setwana or English (H/L) This means their marks are calculated on a first additional level.
- The school must apply for concession in Language, through the SBST of the school.
- The concession can only be applied if the Department grand permission to the request.

6.6 **Admission Integrity:**

6.6.1 Admission to the school under specific language of instruction must be based on the learner's bona fide home language or the genuine language preference of the learner and parent during the admission declared process.

6.6.2 No learner may apply for admission under a particular language of instruction solely for the purpose of gaining admission to the school with the intention of requesting a change of language after admission has been granted.

6.6.3 Where it is established, whether during or after admission, that incorrect, misleading or false information was provided regarding the learner's home language or language preference in order to secure admission, the school reserves the right to review and withdraw such admission. Any such review will be conducted in accordance with the school's admission and language policies adopted by the SGB. In terms of section 5 &6of SASA act 84 of 1996, as well as applicable provincial regulations.

6.6.4 Where appropriate, the school may require the learner to be placed at another school where the declared language of learning and teaching can reasonably be accommodated. The school may further take such administrative steps as are necessary to protect the integrity of its admission and language policies and to ensure fair access for learners who genuinely qualify for admission in terms of the applicable language stream.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 The School Governing Body (SGB)

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

7.2 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.

7.3 The Teachers

- The teachers teach and encourage the learners to discover the world of language and communication for themselves as prescribed by the Department of Basic Education.
- Teachers will apply the integrated communicative approach which involves, among others, using diverse teaching facilitation methods to inspire the minds of their learners, the presentation of genuine source material to make the study of language relevant and meaningful, and to assist learners to develop their communication skills.
- Teachers will use the LOLT in class except when Setwana is being taught.

7.4 Learners

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

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Laerskool Vryburg Primary will appoint suitably qualified teachers to implement the correct use of the Language as defined by this policy.

8.2 Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSM) will continually be budgeted for to implement this policy.

8.3 A high standard of Afrikaans/English will continually be maintained in the classroom and extramurally through participation in Speech festivals, Toastmasters, Spelling Bees, Speech and Drama classes, Plays, Story writing competitions, etc.

8.4 All learners entering Laerskool Vryburg Primary are afforded every opportunity to reach their highest communication potential.

Signed at _____ on this _____ day of _____.

Position	**Print Name**	**Signature**
SGB Chairperson		

SGB Treasurer		
SGB Secretary		
School Principal		
SGB Educator		
SGB Educator		
Non- Educator (AA/GA)		
Parent (Additional Member)		
Parent (Additional Member		
Parent (Additional Member)		