



LANGUAGE POLICY

**Signature GB
Chairman:**

Approved on:

8 March 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Stellenberg High School (the "School") is a public school for boys and girls, with Legal Personality¹, the control of which has been entrusted to its school governing body (the "SGB").²
- 1.2 The SGB has the power to determine the language policy of the School, subject to applicable statutory provisions.
- 1.3 The School strives to encourage bilingualism in Afrikaans and English, and to unite both language classifications in a unified school community in which exposure to both languages and cultures enriches everyone.
- 1.4 The best interest of a learner is of utmost importance and, therefore, this interest will play a crucial role in the formulation of the School's language policy.
- 1.5 The language policy of the School will play a significant and essential role in the admission application of a learner. Where necessary, the language policy and admissions policy of the School are applied in tandem.
- 1.6 Therefore, the SGB declares the following policy as the language policy of the School (the "Language Policy"), in the belief that its provisions are in accordance with the legal framework below.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) and any amendments thereto ("the Constitution");
- 2.2 South African Schools Act (Act 84 of 1996) and any amendments thereto ("Schools Act" or "SASA");
- 2.3 The National Education Policy Act (NEPA), No. 27 of 1996 and any amendments thereto;
- 2.4 Western Cape Provincial School Education Act (Act 12 of 1997) and any amendments thereto ("WCPSEA");
- 2.5 The Promotion of Administrative Justice (Act 3 of 2000);

¹ Article 15 of the SASA; Article 15 of the WCPSEA

² Article 16 of the SASA; Article 13 of the WCPSEA

- 2.6 Other relevant legislative and policy authority that regulates and governs teaching, learning and education within South African public schools;
- 2.7 Applicable case law relating to language policy and education in South Africa;
- 2.8 The International Convention on the Rights of Children;
- 2.9 The “African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children”;
- 2.10 The Norms and Standards for Language Policy in Public Schools, 1997 (GN 1701 of 19 December 1997); and
- 2.11 The directives of the Pan South African Language Board.

3. FACTORS CONSIDERED WHEN DRAFTING THE LANGUAGE POLICY

- 3.1 In drafting the Language Policy of the School, the following factors were taken into account:
 - 3.1.1 the interests of the learners;
 - 3.1.2 the interests of the School community;
 - 3.1.3 the interests of the community in which the School is located, particularly if the community is predominantly Afrikaans and English speaking;
 - 3.1.4 the capability of the School;
 - 3.1.5 the resources and personnel available to the School; and
 - 3.1.6 international best practice regarding class sizes and medium of instruction, with particular reference to the importance of mother tongue education.
- 3.2 The School currently maintains a balance of approximately 60/40 Afrikaans and English-speaking learners.

4. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

- 4.1 The School is committed to providing quality education and, therefore, recognises that the medium of instruction plays a pivotal role in academic, cultural and sporting achievements.
- 4.2 The School is:
 - 4.2.1 a parallel-medium school (Afrikaans or English) in Grade 8 to Grade 9; and
 - 4.2.2 a dual-medium school (Afrikaans and English) in Grade 10 to Grade 12.
- 4.3 This means that tuition in Grade 8 to Grade 9 is offered in either Afrikaans or English, depending on the mother tongue/home language of the learner. Tuition in Grade 10 to Grade 12 is offered on a dual-medium model, according to which instruction is offered alternately (50/50) in Afrikaans and English during a period.

- 4.4 The languages offered as subjects are:
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| 4.4.1 Afrikaans Home Language | Grade 8 – 9 |
| 4.4.2 Afrikaans First Additional Language | Grade 8 – 9 |
| 4.4.3 English Home Language | Grade 8 – 9 |
| 4.4.4 English First Additional Language | Grade 8 – 9 |
| 4.4.5 isiXhosa Second Additional Language | Grade 8 – 9 |
| 4.4.6 German Second Additional Language | Grade 8 – 9 |
| 4.4.7 Afrikaans Home Language | Grade 10 – 12 |
| 4.4.8 Afrikaans First Additional Language | Grade 10 – 12 |
| 4.4.9 English Home Language | Grade 10 – 12 |
| 4.4.10 English First Additional Language | Grade 10 – 12 |
| 4.4.11 isiXhosa Second Additional Language | Grade 10 – 12 |
| 4.4.12 German Second Additional Language | Grade 10 – 12 |
- 4.5 The choice of home language, whether Afrikaans or English, must be indicated when the learner applies for admission to the School. Learners may choose both languages as home language.

5. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND VALUES OF THE SGB WITH RESPECT TO THE LANGUAGE POLICY

The SGB recognises and acknowledges the following general provisions and values, namely:

- 5.1 that all learners of the School must possess the necessary language proficiency in Afrikaans and English in order to participate in the School's teaching and activities;
- 5.2 that it is not in the best interest of the learner to choose a medium of instruction if the learner's language proficiency (currently/prospectively) is, to such an extent, inadequate to perform on an academic, sport and cultural level;
- 5.3 that there is unfair discrimination against learners who are proficient in the medium of instruction of the School, if the teaching of these learners is delayed owing to the application of special language proficiency programmes or the allocation of additional time to a learner who is not proficient in the medium of instruction of the School;
- 5.4 that no learner will be disadvantaged by other learners' choice of another language, which is not part of the medium of instruction or the teaching of other language subjects; and
- 5.5 that, according to the human and physical resources of the School, the School is best equipped for the teaching and learning requirements of learners who are fluent in Afrikaans and English and have exercised their choice of these languages as the medium of instruction.

6. MULTILINGUALISM

- 6.1 All learners are exposed to isiXhosa and German in Grade 8.
- 6.2 In Grade 9, learners may choose between isiXhosa and German.
- 6.3 isiXhosa and German are offered as electives (Second Additional Language) in Grade 10 to Grade 12.

7. LANGUAGE OF ASSESSMENT

Learners' work is assessed in the learner's home language, except for subjects: Afrikaans/English First Additional Language, German and isiXhosa.

8. LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION

All communication by the School is undertaken on a dual-medium basis (Afrikaans and English). This means that any official letter or correspondence will be communicated partially to parents or guardians in Afrikaans and English.

9. REVIEW OF POLICY

The SGB undertakes to review the language policy annually and to make amendments as circumstances arise.