LANGUAGE POLICY 2026

PRINCIPAL: C JOSHUA

SGB CHAIRPERSON: B TIMM

ADOPTED ON: 12 FEBRUARY 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEFINITIONS	2
1. INTRODUCTION and PURPOSE	3
2. IMPLEMENTATION	4
3. POLICY AIMS	4
4. LANGUAGE IN TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT	5
5. LANGUAGE IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY	6
6. ADMISSIONS	7
7. PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF THIS POLICY	7

DEFINITIONS

LOLT:-	Language of Learning and Teaching
SGB:-	School Governing Body
CAPS:-	Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements for each phase (2011)
HL :-	Home Language. It is a compulsory subject from R-12.
FAL:-	First Additional Language.It is a compulsory subject from R-12.
SAL:-	Second Additional Language. Recognised, but not compulsory.
The Constitution:-	The South African Constitution of 1996.
LiEP:-	Language in Education Policy of 1997.
SASA:-	South African Schools Act of 1996.

Initials: _____ _____

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

In terms of the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996 (SASA), the Governing Body determines the language policy of the school. In determining its language policy, The Grove School Governing Body recognises and has taken cognisance of:

- the Bill of Rights as set out in Chapter 2 of the South African Constitution
- the provisions of SASA, with particular reference to Section 6 (Language Policy of Public Schools)
- the National Education Policy Act 27 of 1996 (NEPA)
- the policy guidelines of the national "Language in Education Policy" of 1997 (LiEP)
- the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act of 2011 (BELA)

In South Africa, according to the constitution, all official languages enjoy equal status and respect and everyone has the right to receive education in the official language of their choice. The Grove Language policy is non-racial and non-discriminatory and focuses on respecting all people's languages.

The SGB recognises that the aims of the (Language in Education Policy) LiEP foreground inclusion and redress. Schools are thus required to update their language subject offering in the light of the transformation imperatives of the Constitution. In accordance with the strategic vision of The Grove, the SGB recognises that language is a cornerstone of transformation in South African society and commits to building an inclusive community where stakeholders who bring rich multilingual repertoires into the school are recognised and celebrated.

It is primarily by interaction through language that knowledge, skills, attitudes and values of groups and individuals within an institution are developed. 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 organisation and management of the school to support the entire activity. Equally important, though, is the socio-political context of our society and the need to build and maintain sound values and relationships within our school community. The implementation of this policy should guide teaching and learning, good governance within the school and at the same time foster a culture of accountability and

Initials: _____ _____

transparency.

The policy applies to all learners, staff and parents while they are on the school premises and when they are away from the campus representing the school or attending a school function.

IMPLEMENTATION

The SGB recognises that this policy will need to be phased in incrementally. The implementation of the policy, therefore, will be set out in the Language Policy Implementation Plan, which will take January 2020 as its starting point for the first phase of implementation. An Implementation Task Team will be set up which will consist of, but not be limited to, members of the SGB, members of the Language Working Committee, staff and parent representatives. This task team will consult widely.

POLICY AIMS

- To promote multilingualism - strong communication skills in at least 3 official South African languages in order for children to become engaged citizens
- To build intercultural competence
- To enable an inclusive language environment at the school.
- To foster strengths in language teaching and learning at the school
- To enable redress for the language discrimination of Apartheid
- To promote the language vision of the school, viz.:

    1. The Grove becomes a centre for promoting multilingual education.
    2. The Grove acknowledges the rich language resources that children bring to the school and endeavors to extend these through wider school programmes.
    3. The Grove places high value on the acquisition of isiXhosa, Afrikaans and English teaching.

LANGUAGE IN TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT), including assessment, shall be English for all subjects except for the other languages offered.

Initials: _____ _____

2. English Home Language is compulsory for all learners.

3. Additional Languages:

   3.1 Foundation Phase:

   Both isiXhosa and Afrikaans will be compulsory for all learners and treated equitably at a First Additional Language Level.

   Planning and preparation will begin January 2021 with implementation for Grade 1 Learners in January 2022.

   3.2 Intermediate and Senior Phase:

   Between 2021 and 2025, the school will continue to offer English (LOLT), Afrikaans (FAL) and continue to implement and strengthen isiXhosa as a conversational language in the Intermediate and Senior Phase.

   Planning and preparation will begin in January 2024 for the start of implementation from Grade 4 in January 2025, when learners will choose either isiXhosa First Additional Language and Conversational Afrikaans; or Afrikaans First Additional Language and Conversational isiXhosa as their additional language subjects.

4. The teaching of languages will, guided by the legislated requirements, be given the appropriate time, funds and allotment of learning and teaching support materials and teacher training.

5. Legislated promotion requirements in language subjects as stipulated by CAPS will be adhered to.

6. The use of any other languages which will aid conceptual development and encourage a culture of diversity and inclusion is encouraged in all lessons.

7. Children are encouraged to use their most familiar languages in the classroom.

8. The school will seek to employ specialist language teachers.

Initials: _____ _____

9. Teachers are also encouraged to develop and draw on their own multilingual skills; those of colleagues and parents; as well as those of their learners.

10. The use of multilingual resources in the classroom, such as dictionaries, posters and signs, as well as learning materials is encouraged in order to support conceptual development, acknowledge diversity, promote inclusion and show appreciation of all languages and cultures.

LANGUAGE IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The Language in Education Policy (1997) acknowledges that “societal and individual multilingualism are the global norm today” and that “being multilingual should be a defining characteristic of being South African.” It requires schools to determine how multilingualism will be promoted through offering official languages as subjects as well as through whole-school programmes. The school will embark on the following whole school programmes to promote multilingualism:

1. The Grove will strive to create an atmosphere where children feel comfortable to use their most familiar language/s outside of the classroom, for example, in extra-mural activities.
2. Staff, parents and learners are encouraged to share and promote their languages in social contexts.
3. Signage on the school property will appear in English in every case, with Afrikaans and isiXhosa being represented equally and as much as possible. Official Western Cape Education Department signage will appear in the three official languages of the Western Cape.
4. The library shall stock books in all languages offered as subjects at the school.
5. Official school documents shall be available in English with translation into Afrikaans and isiXhosa provided on request, where possible.
6. Written communication with parents shall be in English, with isiXhosa and Afrikaans included as much as possible.
7. In engagements between staff and parents, where there is a mismatch between the home languages of staff and parents, parents are invited to bring an interpreter.
8. To support and promote multilingualism, when appointing staff, proficiencies in languages other than English shall be viewed favourably.

Initials: _____ _____

9. While English will be the language of communication at formal school events such as Honours assemblies, weekly assemblies and parents' meetings, Afrikaans and isiXhosa will also be used, as much as possible.
10. From time to time special events will be planned which draw attention to the rich cultural heritage of our country and the diverse languages of its people.
11. The SGB shall strive to ensure that sufficient funds are set aside each year for staffing, venues, learning and teaching support materials in all additional languages when the school's annual budget is determined.
12. The principal (or delegate) shall monitor the academic progress of the school as a whole to determine the impact of this policy.

ADMISSIONS

1. The language/s used by applicants in their daily lives, as well as their proficiencies in these languages, shall in no way be an impediment to admission.
2. Learners are expected to study all the languages offered by the school curriculum.
3. Where there is a mismatch between the LOLT of the school and the learner's home language, the school will offer support to the learner, where possible.
4. As with all school programmes, the staff rely on parental support and engagement for learning to be as effective as possible.

PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

As with all school policies, this policy can be formally reviewed at any time. This Language Policy shall be reviewed in 2027 in order to evaluate its impact and to prepare for the incremental implementation in the Intersen Phase. If the Policy is changed by the SGB, it will be done in such a way that the rights of learners already attending the school will be protected. If significant changes are to be made to the policy these changes will be negotiated and phased in over an agreed and reasonable time frame.

LEGISLATION

This policy is still under review by the current SGB.

Initials: _____ _____

Acceptance of policy: on this 12th day of February 2026.

Signed:_____ _____

School Governing Body Chair Principal

Review dates: 1.

2.

3.

4.

Initials: _____ _____