



# Glenstantia Primary School

## Language Policy

<b>Date approved</b>	4 Aug 2021	<b>Date Policy will take effect</b>	5 Aug 2021	<b>Date of next review</b>	Annually
<b>Developed by</b>	Policy Development and review Committee (PDRC) of the School Governing Body (SGB)				
<b>Approved by</b>	School Governing Body (SGB)				
<b>Responsible Body</b>	School Governing Body (SGB)				
<b>Supporting documents, procedures and forms for this policy</b>	Legislation (see Below)				
<b>References and Legislation</b>	<p>The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996)</p> <p>South African Schools Act 84 of 1996</p> <p>National Education Policy Act 27 of 1996</p> <p>Language in Education Policy in terms of Section 3(4)(m) of the National Education Policy Act 27 of 1996</p> <p>Language Policy for Public Schools – Government Notice 1701 in Government Gazette Mo 18546 on 19 December 1997</p>				
<b>Scope</b>	SGB, School Management Team (SMT), Educator Staff, Learners				
<b>Expiry date of policy</b>	This policy remains in force until replaced by a policy revised and approved by the SGB.				

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## 1. PURPOSE OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY

- 1.1 The main purpose of the Language Policy is to clarify Glenstantia'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.
- 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. ACRONYMS

Acronym	Explanation
SGB	School Governing Body
SMT	School Management Team
HOD	Head of Department of Gauteng Department of Education
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
SASA	South African Schools Act
FAL	First Additional Language
LOLT	Language of Learning and Teaching
LTSM	Learning and Teaching Support Materials

### **3. APPLICATION AND SCOPE**

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

### **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. (See 5,4)
- 3.4 No learner may be punished for expressing himself/herself in a language that is not the official language of Glenstantia Primary School.

### **4 OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF GLENSTANTIA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- 4.1 The Parent Body voted that the Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) shall be English.
- 4.2 English is therefore regarded as Glenstantia Primary School's Home Language.
- 4.3 In addition, the First Additional Language (FAL) shall be Afrikaans.
- 4.4 Further, the Parent Body voted that Northern Sotho (Sepedi) shall be taught to Grade 1-7 learners on a communicative level only.

## **5. PROCEDURE TO CHANGE THE OFFICAL LANGUAGE OF GLENSTANTIA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

5.1 The following procedure will apply when the Parent Body would like to motivate/request a change in the First Additional Language (FAL) of Glenstantia Primary school:

- (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 Glenstantia Primary School.
- (ii) Upon receipt of the request the issue will be discussed by the School Governing Body, in consultation with parents if required, and ratified by the School Governing Body.

## **6. ASPECTS OF GLENSTANTIA PRIMARY SCHOOL'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 English, namely school brochures, newsletters, bulletin boards, timetables, letters etc.

### **6.3 Future Planning**

- Where at least 40 learners, in any grade, from Grades 1-7 require to be taught in a language not offered at Glenstantia Primary School, an application can be made to the HOD for the provision of a suitable teacher.

### **6.4 Admission of New Learners**

- All new learners who are not mother tongue speakers of English will be admitted to Glenstantia Primary School.

- Their **level of English** will be assessed by the School's Remedial Department to enable the teachers to assist them with:
  - a) Extra English (free, after hours), or
  - b) Additional support in English (during class time, for as long as it is necessary to make them competent).

## 6.5 Immigrants

- Any non mother tongue speaker of English who enters the country is granted Immigrant status for three years by the Education Department from the time of entering the country.
- Immigrants are not formally assessed in Afrikaans (FAL) within those three years. This means their marks are calculated including English but excluding Afrikaans
- Once their immigrant status has been relinquished they will be required to be formally assessed in Afrikaans. For example, if their competence level is 10% in their first year of assessment then that is what they will receive.

## 7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 7.1 The School Governing Body (SGB)

- The SGB is mandated to develop the Language Policy of Glenstantia Primary School 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 Afrikaans and Sepedi are 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 Glenstantia Primary School.
- 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 Glenstantia Primary School 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 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 Glenstantia Primary School are afforded every opportunity to reach their highest communication potential.

SIGNED BY

Chairperson of the SGB: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

The Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

IDSO: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: