



# LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK

## POLICY & PROCEDURE

### LANGUAGE POLICY

Laerskool Wierdapark

LSWP – B – L- 003(E)

#### Dokumentontwikkeling en Goedkeuring

Verantwoordelikeid	Detail	Naam	Handtekening	Datum
Outeur:				
Goedgekeur:	Voorsitter: Beheerliggaam	JC de Bruin		
Goedgekeur:	Hoof en Beheerliggaamslid	Y. WILKEN		
Goedgekeur:	Adjunkhoof en Beheerliggaamslid	LFS BOSMAN		
Goedgekeur:	Beheerliggaamslid	C van Rooyen		
Goedgekeur:	Beheerliggaamslid	C v.d. Burg		
Goedgekeur:				
Gepubliseer	In Beleidslêer			
	Op webwerf			
	Gekommunikeer			

Weegawe No	Datum	Beskrywing
Final	2014-02-27	
Reviewed	2016-11-11	
Amended	2018-11-05	

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**LANGUAGE POLICY**

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#### 1. TITLE OF THE POLICY:

LANGUAGE POLICY OF LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK

#### 2. EFFECTIVE DATE:

1 June 2018

#### 3. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:

1 June 2019

#### 4. REVISION HISTORY

As amended on:
□
□

#### 5. PREAMBLE

South Africa is a country with a diversity of cultures and languages. In recognition of this, the emphasis of any language policy should be on the promotion of multilingualism, the development of the official languages, and a respect for all languages used in the country, including South African Sign Language and the languages referred to in the South African Constitution.

This policy attempts to protect and advance our diverse cultures and languages and uphold the rights of all learners, parents and educators, and promote their acceptance of responsibility in facilitating the underlying principles which are:

- The maintaining of the home language while providing access to and the effective acquisition of additional language(s), in keeping with the Department's position that an additive approach to bilingualism is to be seen as the normal orientation of our language-in-education policy.

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- The right to choose the language of learning and teaching is vested in the individual. This right has, however, to be exercised within the overall framework of the obligation on the education system to promote multilingualism.
- No form of racial discrimination may be practised in implementing policy determined under this section.
- A recognised Sign Language has the status of an official language for purposes of learning at a public school.
- The governing body of a public school may determine the language policy of the school subject to the Constitution and any applicable provincial law.

#### **6. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

- 6.1 To promote and develop different languages.
- 6.2 To establish multilingualism as an approach to language in education.
- 6.3 To identify and determine a Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) as well as the approved language/s to be offered to learners at the school.
- 6.4 To ensure that no form of discrimination takes place on the basis of language.

#### **7. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 The interests of learners.
- 7.2 The interest of the school community.
- 7.3 The interest of the community in which the school is located.
- 7.4 International best practice with regard to class sizes and language in education, with specific reference to the importance of mother tongue education.



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## 8. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

### 8.1 DEFINITIONS

No.	Term	Definition
8.1.1	“the Act”	Means the South African Schools Act, Act No.84 of 1996 as amended
8.1.2	“the School”	Refers to Laerskool Wierdapark
8.1.3	learner	Any person registered to receive education at the school
8.1.4	multilingualism	The ability to use several languages
8.1.5	Home Language	A preferred or first language of choice that a learner is offered for learning and teaching purposes
7.1.6	First Additional Language.	An alternative or an additional language to Home Language that a learner is offered for learning and teaching purposes

### 8.2 ACRONYMS

No.	Acronyms	Explanation
8.2.1	LoLT (Language of Learning and Teaching)	Refers to the approved language that will be used as a medium of instruction in the school and must be an official language with a valid syllabus at Home or First Additional language level.
8.2.3	HL	Home Language
8.2.4	FAL	First Additional Language

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#### **9. APPLICATION AND SCOPE OF THE POLICY**

- 9.1 The language policy applies to all learners and educators and covers the Language of Learning and Teaching and Language as a subject.

#### **10. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

- 10.1 Constitution of South Africa, (Act No. 108 of 1996 as amended)  
10.2 South African Schools Act, (Act No. 84 of 1996 as amended)  
10.3 National Education Policy Act 1996, (Act No. 27 of 1996)  
10.4 Gauteng School Education Act, 1995 (Act No. 6 of 1995 as amended)

#### **11. RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROVINCIAL CIRCULARS**

- 11.1 Language in Education Policy, published in terms of section 3(4)(m) of the National Education Policy Act 1996, (Act 27 of 1996).  
11.2 Norms and Standards regarding language policy published in terms of section 6(1) of the South African Schools Act, (Act 84 of 1996).  
11.3 Circular 20 of 2009 – Registration Procedures for Entry to the National Senior Certificate Examinations (Gr.10 to 12).

#### **12. POLICY STATEMENTS**

##### **12.1 KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN DEVELOPING A POLICY**

The school recognises the diversity of cultures and languages in our country and considers the following realities to shape the language policy:

- a. The thorough development of a child's language skill is a reliable predictor of future cognitive competence.
- b. Both the Home Language and Language of Learning and Teaching are important because the Home Language plays the primary role in developing literacy and thinking skills and is of importance in enhancing the protection and further development of the indigenous language.
- c. The University Language of Instruction in South Africa is predominantly English; however, it is necessary for schools to promote other indigenous languages for the purpose of learner mobility and access.



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- d. The promotion of multilingualism enhances opportunity for learners to access jobs and participate in the socio – economic development of the country.

#### 12.2 LANGUAGE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING (LoLT)

- a. Laerskool Wierdapark is a single medium school.
- b. Based on the choices made by the parent population of the school the language of learning and teaching at the school is Afrikaans.

#### 12.3 LANGUAGES AS SUBJECTS

- a. Based on the choices made by the parent population, the school shall offer English as a FAL (Gr 1 – 7) and Sepedi as a third language (Gr 1 – 3)
- b. The school does not offer a foreign language.
- c. All languages will be allocated the required amount of time as prescribed by the curriculum - resource allocation will be equitable – as necessary.

#### 12.4 LANGUAGE IN LAERSKOOL WIERDAPARK

In all phases, the school will offer at least two official languages provided that one of the official languages is offered as a Home Language (HL) and another as a First Additional Language (FAL). One of the official languages will be the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT).

a. **Foundation Phase (Gr. 1 – 3):**

At Laerskool Wierdapark, all learners from Grades 1 to 3 Afrikaans will be offered as the Home Language. English will be offered as a First Additional Language and Sepedi as a second Additional Language.

b. **Intermediate phase (Gr. 4-6):**

All learners in Grades 4 to 6 Afrikaans will be offered as the Home Language and English will be offered as a First Additional Language.

c. **Senior phase (Grade 7):**

All learners in Grade 7 Afrikaans will be offer as the Home Language and English will be offered as a First Additional Language.



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Every educator at the school takes reasonable steps to inform learners on the importance of multilingualism, and to promote respect for other languages beside the home language.

#### **12.5 LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION**

- 12.5.1 Reports as well as official written communication issued by the school to the parents will be in Afrikaans, unless the correspondence is concerning one of the other languages.
- 12.5.2 Articles in the school newsletter will be written in Afrikaans.
- 12.5.3 General parent's meetings shall be addressed in Afrikaans.
- 12.5.4 No learner shall be punished for expressing himself/herself in a language which is not the language of learning and teaching at the school.
- 12.5.5 All correspondence to the GDE will be in English.

#### **12.6 LANGUAGE AND ADMISSIONS**

- 12.6.1 Language competence testing shall not be used as an admission requirement at the school.
- 12.6.2 A parent will exercise the minor learner's language rights on behalf of the minor learner on application for admission to the school.
- 12.6.3 In cases where the school uses the language of learning and teaching chosen by the parent for the learner and where there is space available for the learner in the grade applied for, the school will admit the learner, subject to the admission requirements being met.
- 12.6.4 In cases where the desired language of learning and teaching is not offered by the school, a parent may decide for the learner to be taught in a language medium already offered by the school, provided that the learner and parent do not demand to be taught in the desired LoLT after admissions. On application for admissions, language choices are expected to be made.





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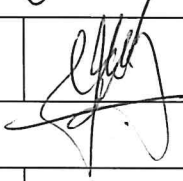
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**13. SHORT TITLE**

This policy shall be called **Language Policy of Laerskool Wierdapark**

**14. APPROVAL:**

<b>Recommended by: (Principal)</b>	Y Wilken	<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	9/11/2018		
<b>Approved by: (SGB Chairperson)</b>	JC de Bruijn	<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	9/11/2018		
<b>Verification by GDE: (District Director)</b>		<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date of Verification</b>			
<b>Certified by :</b>		<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date</b>			

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