

Barachel Christian Academy

Language policy

1. Preamble

1. South Africa is a country with a diversity of cultures and languages. In recognition of this, the emphasizes 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.
2. 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:
3. The maintaining of the home language/s 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.
4. 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.
5. No form of racial discrimination may be practiced in implementing policy determined under this section.
6. A recognized Sign Language has the status of an official language for purposes of learning at a public school.
7. The governing body of a public school may determine the language policy of the school subject to the Constitution and any applicable provincial law.

2. Purpose of the policy

1. To promote and develop all official languages.
2. To establish multilingualism as an approach to language in education.

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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.
4. To ensure that no form of discrimination takes place on the basis of language.

3. Definitions and acronyms

1. Definitions

Term	Definition
“the Act”	Means the South African Schools Act, Act No.84 of 1996 as amended
“the School”	Refers to (Barachel Christian Academy)
learner	Any person registered to receive education at the school
multilingualism	The ability to use several languages
Home Language	A preferred or first language of choice that a learner may offer for learning and teaching purposes
First Additional Language.	An alternative or an additional language to Home Language that a learner may offer for learning and teaching purposes

2. Acronyms

Acronyms	Explanation
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.

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HL	Home Language
FAL	First Additional Language

4. Application and scope of the policy

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

5. Legislative framework

1. Constitution of South Africa, (Act No. 108 of 1996 as amended)
2. South African Schools Act, (Act No. 84 of 1996 as amended)
3. National Education Policy Act 1996, (Act No. 27 of 1996)
4. Gauteng School Education Act, 1995 (Act No. 6 of 1995) as amended)

6. Relevant policies and provincial circulars

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

7. Policy statement.

1. The school recognizes the diversity of cultures and languages in our country and considers the following realities to shape the language policy:
2. The thorough development of a child's language skill is a reliable predictor of future cognitive competence.
3. 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, while the Language of Learning (in particular English) is the one in which learners must master educational concepts, and provides a platform to participate and engage meaningfully in the information age on a global stage.
4. The University Language of Instruction in South Africa is predominantly English; however it is necessary for schools to

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promote other indigenous languages for the purpose of learner mobility and access.

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

1) LANGUAGE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING (LoLT)

- i) Barachel Christian Academy is a single medium school.
- ii) The language of learning and teaching at the school is English.

2) LANGUAGES AS SUBJECTS

- i) The school shall offer the following official language as additional languages Afrikaans.
- ii) The school does not offer a foreign language.
- iii) Where possible, all languages shall receive equitable time and resource allocation.

3) LANGUAGE BY SCHOOL TYPE

- i) 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 a Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT).
- ii) Foundation Phase (Gr. 1 – 3):
- iii) At Barachel Christian Academy, all learners from Grades 1 to 3 will offer English as a Home Language. Afrikaans will be offered as a First Additional Language. Code switching shall be encouraged to assist the learner's transition from the home language to the LoLT.
- iv) Intermediate phase (Grade 4-6):
- v) To all learners in Grades 4 to 6 shall offer English as a Home Language and Afrikaans will be offered as a First Additional Language.
- vi) Senior phase (Grade 7-9):
- vii) To all learners in Grades 7 to 9 shall offer English as a Home Language and Afrikaans will be offered as a First Additional Language.
- viii) Further Education and Training phase (Gr.10 -12)
- ix) To all learners in Grades 10-12 shall offer English as a Home Language and Afrikaans will be offered as a First Additional Language.

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4) LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION

- i) School reports as well as official written communication issued by the school will be in English.
- ii) Articles in the school newsletter will be written in English
- iii) General parents meetings shall be addressed in English and where necessary an interpreter may be utilized.
- iv) No learner shall be punished for expressing himself/herself in a language which is not the language of learning and teaching at the school.

5) LANGUAGE AND ADMISSIONS

- i) Language competence testing shall not be used as an admissions requirement at the school.
- ii) A parent shall exercise the minor learner's language rights on behalf of the minor learner on application for admission to the school.