

Observatory Junior



Language Policy



Observatory Junior School

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LANGUAGE POLICY

1. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

This document has been drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of South Africa, Act 108 OF 1996; The South African School's Act, Act 84 of 1996; the National Education Policy Act, Act 27 of 1996; applicable provincial legislation on school education; and judgements of the South African courts. It is situated within the framework provided by National legislation and policies, and the language policy document of the Western Cape Education Department.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

It is primarily by interaction through language in all subjects that knowledge, skills, attitudes and values of groups and individuals within an institution are developed. The importance of language in the educational process can in all subjects thus scarcely be over-emphasized.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

The Governing Body of Observatory Junior School has determined that the school will be a single medium school and that teaching, and learning will be English (excluding the subject of Afrikaans as FAL and IsiXhosa).

4. POLICY SCOPE

The policy will be applicable to all the WCED staff, parents, learners and other stakeholders at the Observatory Junior School, and WCED by request.

5. LANGUAGE OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION IN THE SCHOOL

While Observatory Junior School is an institution in which the medium of instruction and language of office is English, it nevertheless enrolls learners with divergent linguistic capacities. To serve this diverse school community equitably, the School's language policy needs to take account not only of the language ability of speakers of English as a mother tongue, but also of speakers of various local dialects of English, bilingual speakers of English and several people for whom English is not their first language. All Language can be used by peers/Language Aids to assist the learners. There will be no form of discrimination with regards to implementing the language policy.

6. MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

The medium of instruction in the school is English. However, in all its official communications and learning materials, the school and staff will take steps to ensure that, while the standard of English is not compromised, the level of English usage shall not be such that it limits the comprehension of those whose linguistic abilities in English are less developed than those of the average English first language speaker.

7. LANGUAGE OFFERED AT SCHOOL

English will be offered as a subject at Home Language level only.

Afrikaans will be offered at First Additional Language level.

Xhosa will be offered as the Second Additional Language.

8. LANGUAGE OF ASSESSMENT

The Language of Assessment shall be English for all subjects, other than for Languages other than English.

9. LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS / STAFF / PUBLIC

The Language of communication with parents, staff and the public shall be English, but steps will be taken to ensure that, while the standard of English is not compromised, the level of English usage shall not be such that it denies access to communication and comprehension by those whose linguistic abilities in English may be less developed than those of the average English first language speaker.

10. PLANS TO DEVELOP MULTILINGUALISM

The school library is incrementally purchasing books to match language learning needs of users of 3 languages offered at Observatory Junior School, English, Afrikaans and Xhosa. Most of the learners' home language is Xhosa.

11. PLANS TO ENHANCE THE STATUS OF ALL OFFICIAL SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGES AT THE SCHOOL

- 11.1 The Principal shall liaise from time to time with the Principals of our larger feeder schools to determine if our Language Policy is aligned with those of the said feeder schools.
- 11.2 The Principal shall ensure that sufficient funds are set aside each year for Learning and Teaching Support Materials in both languages when the School's annual Budget is determined.
- 11.3 The Principal (or delegate) shall keep a record of all requests made to accommodate learners in a language which is not offered by the school. This list shall be made available to the WCED upon request.
- 11.4 The Principal (or delegate) shall monitor the academic progress of the school as a whole to determine if Teaching and Learning are being adversely affected by the school's Language Policy.

12. PLANS TO ACCOMMODATE LANGUAGE LEARNING NEEDS OF MINORITY GROUPS

- 12.1 Based on annual enrolment figures the principal shall determine the number of staff members required to teach the various languages offered and implement the School's language policy.
- 12.2 The Principal shall ensure that the Staff complement is adequate to carry out such Policy.
- 12.3 Staff will be made aware of the linguistic obstacles faced by groups such as the following:
 - 12.3.1 bilingual learners
 - 12.3.2 those learners who speak other varieties of English
 - 12.3.3 those learners whose home language is not English
 - 12.3.4 learners from working class environmentsand where necessary and feasible, arrangements will be made to develop support services for those who need them.

13. PLANS TO ENHANCE THE STATUS OF ALL OFFICIAL SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGES

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.

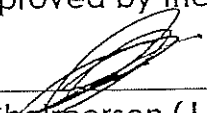
14. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

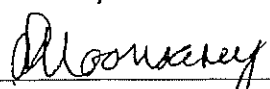
Educator need to be proficient in their delivery of the medium of instruction.

15. PROCESS FOR REVIEW

The School shall review the existing Language Policy whenever a new Governing Body is formed. If the Policy is changed, it will be done in such a way as not to disadvantage learners already at the school who are already following a course in a particular language.

Approved by the School Governing Body of Observatory Junior School


SGB Chairperson (J Wynne)


Principal (S Moonsamy)

19 August 2025

6 May 2027

Implementation Date

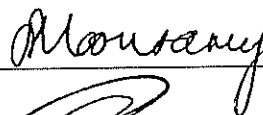
Review Date

Language Policy

This Language Policy was adopted / accepted / reviewed by **ALL** SGB members of Observatory Junior School on Tuesday, 19 August 2025 and will be up for review on or before 6 May 2027.

SGB member:

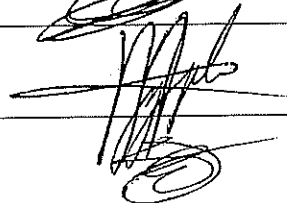
Sofeya Moonsamy



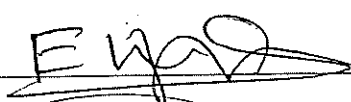
Joshua Wynne



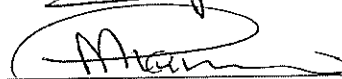
Madoda Sigonyela



Eric Bailey



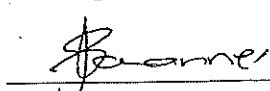
Elie Tshibasut Mutombo



Mandisa Mzamo



Adiel Adams



Shannon Johannes



Senzo Bacela



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