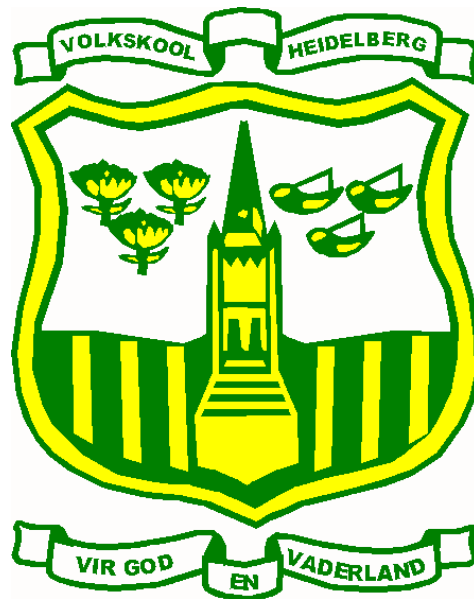


# GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## LAER VOLKSKOOL HEIDELBERG LANGUAGE POLICY



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# 1. TITLE OF THE POLICY:

LANGUAGE POLICY OF Laer Volkskool Heidelberg

# 2. EFFECTIVE DATE:

27 January 2017

# 3. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:

January 2018

# 4. REVISION HISTORY

As amended on: (Specify dates)
• January 2018
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# 5. PREAMBLE

South Africa is a country with a diversity of cultures and languages. In recognition of this, the emphasises 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/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.
- 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 all official 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. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

### 7.1 DEFINITIONS

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

## 7.2 ACRONYMS

No.	Acronyms	Explanation
7.2.1	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.
7.2.3	HL	Home Language
7.2.4	FAL	First Additional Language

## 8. APPLICATION AND SCOPE OF THE POLICY

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

## 9. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

- 9.1 Constitution of South Africa, (Act No. 108 of 1996 as amended)  
9.2 South African Schools Act, (Act No. 84 of 1996 as amended)  
9.3 National Education Policy Act 1996, (Act No. 27 of 1996)  
9.4 Gauteng School Education Act, 1995 (Act No. 6 of 1995) as amended)

## 10. RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROVINCIAL CIRCULARS

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

# 11. POLICY STATEMENTS

## 11.1 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, while the Language of Learning (in particular Afrikaans) 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.
- c. The promotion of multilingualism enhances opportunity for learners to access jobs and participate in the socio – economic development of the country.

## 11.2 LANGUAGE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING (LoLT)

- a. Laer Volksskool Heidelberg 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.

## 11.3 LANGUAGES AS SUBJECTS

- a. Based on the choices made by the parent population, the school shall offer the following official languages as additional languages English.
- b. The school does not offer a foreign language.
  - (i) In cases where there are less than 40 learners requesting a language in a given grade not already offered by a school in a particular school district, the head of the provincial department of education will determine how the needs of those learners will be met.

## 11.4 LANGUAGE BY SCHOOL TYPE

### 11.4.1 PRIMARY SCHOOL

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) Afrikaans and another as a First Additional Language English(FAL). Afrikaans will be the Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT).

a. Foundation Phase (Gr. 1 – 3):

At Laer Volksskool Heidelberg, all learners from Grades 1 to 3 will offer Afrikaans as a Home Language. English will be offered as a First Additional Language..

b. Intermediate phase (Grade 4-6):

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

c. Senior phase (Grade 7-9):

All learners in Grades 7 to 9 shall offer Afrikaans as a Home Language Language and English will be offered as a First Additional Language.

11.4.2

## 12. SHORT TITLE

This policy shall be called **Language Policy of Laer Volksskool Heidelberg**

## 13. APPROVAL:

<b>Recommended by: (Principal) (print name)</b>		<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	2017-01-27		
<b>Approved by: (SGB Chairperson) (Print name)</b>		<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	2017-01-31		
<b>Verification by GDE: (District Director) (Print Name)</b>		<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date of Verification</b>			
<b>Certified by :(Print Name)</b>		<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Date</b>			