



RUSTENBURG GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

LANGUAGE POLICY

1. Purpose of this policy

- a. In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the National Education Policy Act and section 6(2) of *The South African Schools Act, No 84 of 1996*, as amended, the School Governing Body (SGB) of Rustenburg Girls' High School (RGHS) has approved of the following Language Policy of the school.
- b. In so doing, it has taken into consideration the following legal requirements as set out in Norms and Standards regarding language policy published in terms of section 6(1) of the South African Schools Act, 1996; Section 3(4)(m) of the National Education Policy Act, 1996 (Act 27 of 1996); Sections 6 and 9 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996); applicable provincial legislation on school education and relevant judgements of the South African courts.

2. Guiding factors/principles:

- a. This policy is based on the current learner language distribution. However, it is acknowledged that the school must always be responsive to
 - i. changes in the language mix of the community;
 - ii. the resources and staff available to the school;
 - iii. the importance of mother-tongue education along with the need to promote multilingualism;
 - iv. a commitment to redress, inclusivity and non-discriminatory practices regarding race and language.

3. Language of Instruction.

- a. The SGB of RGHS has determined that the school will be a single medium school and that the language of learning and teaching (excluding the subjects/learning areas of isiXhosa, Afrikaans, and any foreign languages offered by the school) will be English.
- b. While learners will be encouraged to use the language of learning and teaching (LOLT) in class lessons, this will not impinge on their right to use their Home Language in class with peers who speak the same language, provided this is not done in order to undermine educators or peers who do not speak their Home Language. Their right to use their Home Language outside of the classroom is also recognised.

- c. Should there be requests from learners to enrol at the school for instruction in a LOLT not offered by the school, the matter will be considered in terms of the Norms and Standards for Language Policy and any relevant legislation.

4. Additional Languages offered as Subjects

- a. The school will promote multilingualism by offering the additional official languages of isiXhosa and Afrikaans as fully fledged subjects on a first additional language level from Grade 8 to Grade 12.
- b. RGHS also offers isiXhosa as an enrichment subject at the General Education and Training (GET) level (Grade 8 & 9) and, from 2022, will offer it as a Second Additional Language at the GET level, with the aim being to have the first matric class in the subject in 2026.
- c. The school also offers foreign languages French and German as optional enrichment subjects at the GET level and as Second Additional Languages at the FET level.

5. Language of Assessment

- a. The language of assessment will, in all cases other than the subjects/learning areas of isiXhosa, Afrikaans, and any foreign languages offered by the school, be English.

6. Language of Communication

- a. The primary language of communication with staff, learners and parents will be English. Care will be taken to ensure that the level of language in school communications will not be such that it creates barriers for any person for whom English may not be their first language. Should parents whose first language is not English require translation services for engagement with the school (e.g. for a parent meeting), such arrangements will be made whenever practically possible.

7. Prohibition against Discrimination

- a. Discriminatory behaviour on the basis of language, intentional or otherwise, will not be tolerated at the School.
- b. This applies when on the School grounds at any time, but also at other School related events, and also in instances where the student can reasonably be recognised as a Scholar of the School (even if this is online).
- c. Breaches of this Policy will be dealt with under the Code of Conduct.

8. Protection of Rights

- a. Any changes to this policy will be both negotiated and phased in so that the rights of any learners already enrolled will be protected.

9. Document Control

DATE	DESCRIPTION
<i>October 2009</i>	<i>Revised</i>
<i>February 2017</i>	<i>Reviewed</i>
<i>February 2018</i>	<i>Reviewed</i>
<i>February 2021</i>	<i>Updated to include Language of Assessment/ Communication, in line with Circuit Manager & GBF recommendations</i>
<i>September 2021</i>	<i>Changes following review by L&N Advisors</i>

10. Adoption

This policy was adopted at the SGB meeting on 28 September 2021

SGB Chairman: _____