



CAMPS BAY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

LANGUAGE POLICY

PREAMBLE

1. In terms of SASA, the School Governing Body (SGB) determines the language of the school. In determining its language policy, the Camps Bay Primary School (CBPS) SGB recognises and has taken cognisance of the policy guidelines of the national "Language in Education Policy" of 1997 and Basic Education Laws Amendment Act (BELA).
2. CBPS's language policy is non-racial and non-discriminatory. Respect for all people's languages is considered to be a priority. All official languages enjoy equal status and respect and all learners have the right to receive education in the official language of his/her choice in public schools, where such education is practicable.
3. CBPS is committed to the promotion of a trilingual approach in respect of English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa, as these are the three official languages most used in the Western Cape.
4. The policy applies to all learners while they are on the school premises or when they are away from the school representing it or attending a school function.
5. A sound foundation in language competencies is a crucial factor underpinning academic success. Through the development and delivery of excellent teaching and learning of three official South African languages, we aim to cultivate strong communication skills and improved understanding of related cultures, thus promoting confidence and preparing children to become engaged citizens.

POLICY

1. The language of learning and teaching (LOLT) at CBPS will be English, as this language reflects the predominant home language (mother tongue) of the majority of the population of the community which is served by the school. The language of assessment is English for all subjects except for the other languages offered.
2. The requirement for languages as subjects is as follows: Two approved languages, the Home Language is English and the First Additional Language (FAL) offered by CBPS is Afrikaans.
3. The SGB has decided to offer conversational isiXhosa as a Second Additional Language. All children are required to participate.
4. The teaching of Home Language, First Additional Language (FAL) and Second Additional Language will, in accordance with the legislated requirements, be given appropriate time, funds and the allotment of aids.

5. Learners who display difficulties with languages will be given appropriate support, which the School Management Team (SMT) and specific academic staff will determine as necessary, with support and input from the SGB as needed.
6. The legislated promotion requirements for a learner relating to language subjects are adhered to at CBPS.
7. English is the language of written communication internally with staff as well as with parents and guardians.
8. A learner's home language is not an admission requirement to CBPS.
9. Learners joining the school who lack proficiency in either the FAL or SAL must take responsibility for the acquisition of these language skills at their own costs.

LANGUAGE POLICY AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

In terms of section 6(7) of the South African Schools Act, as amended by the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act, 2024 (Act 32 of 2024), the Head of Department may, **where it is practicable to do so and subject to section 6(5)**, direct a public school to adopt more than one language of instruction.

In determining whether it is practicable for a public school to have more than one language of instruction, the Head of Department must take into account factors including, but not limited to:

- the best interests of the child, with emphasis on equality as provided for in section 9 of the Constitution and equity;
- the changing number of learners who speak the language of learning and teaching at the public school;
- the need for effective use of classroom space and resources of the public school; and
- the language needs, in general, of the broader community in the education district in which the public school is situated.

1. Procedure before a directive is issued

The school recognises that the Head of Department may not exercise the power contemplated in section 6(7) unless the requirements of section 6(9) have been complied with.

Before issuing a directive requiring Camps Bay Primary School to adopt more than one language of instruction, the Head of Department must:

1. inform the school and the Governing Body in writing of the intention to issue such a directive and the reasons for that intention;
2. notify the parents associated with the school and the community in which the school is situated of the intention and the reasons for it, using the methods prescribed by section 6(9);
3. grant the school, the Governing Body, parents and the community a reasonable opportunity to make representations in relation to the proposed action, including discussions relating to the intention;
4. conduct a public hearing, on reasonable notice, to enable the community to make representations; and
5. give due consideration to representations received.

Following this process, the Head of Department must inform the school and the Governing Body of the decision and the reasons for the decision, and must notify the parents associated with the school and the community of the decision.

2. Resources required for an additional language of instruction

Should the Head of Department direct Camps Bay Primary School to adopt more than one language of instruction, the Head of Department must, before the directive is implemented, take all necessary steps to ensure that the school receives the necessary resources to enable it to provide adequate tuition in the additional language or languages of instruction.

Such resources include, but are not limited to, appropriately qualified educators and appropriate learning and teaching support material.

3. Appeal against a directive

If the Governing Body is not satisfied with a directive of the Head of Department contemplated in section 6(7), the Governing Body may appeal against the directive to the Member of the Executive Council within **14 days** after receiving the directive.

The Member of the Executive Council must, within **14 days** after receiving the appeal, consider and decide the matter and inform the Governing Body of the outcome.

While the appeal is being considered, the language policy of Camps Bay Primary School remains valid and applicable, and only the provisions that are the subject of the appeal are suspended pending the finalisation of the appeal process.

4. Interpretation

Nothing in this policy is intended to limit the statutory powers of the Head of Department under section 6 of the South African Schools Act, as amended, or to limit the statutory powers and responsibilities of the Governing Body.

Any exercise of the Head of Department's power in relation to the language of instruction must comply with the Constitution, the South African Schools Act as amended, and the procedural requirements applicable to such exercise of power.

For Website Publication (YES) ~~(NO)~~

Date approved: 31 August 2026

SGB Chair

