

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



IMPALA CRESCENT
PRIMARY SCHOOL



GAUTENG PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

IMPALA CRESCENT PRIMARY SCHOOL LANGUAGE POLICY 2026

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IMPALA CRESCENT PRIMARY SCHOOL LANGUAGE POLICY

(Updated in line with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996 as amended, the Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act, 2024, and the Admission of Learners to Public Schools Regulations, 2025)

1. TITLE OF THE POLICY

Language Policy of Impala Crescent Primary School

2. EFFECTIVE DATE

1 June 2026

3. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

1 June 2027

4. REVISION HISTORY

- 07 November 2020
- 24 May 2025
- 18 May 2026
- **1 June 2026 (BELA & 2025 Admissions Regulations Compliance Update)**

5. PREAMBLE

South Africa is a multilingual and multicultural country founded on constitutional values of equality, dignity, inclusivity, non-racialism and human rights. Impala Crescent Primary School recognises the importance of promoting multilingualism while ensuring effective access to quality education for all learners.

This Language Policy is developed in accordance with:

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- The South African Schools Act 84 of 1996, as amended (particularly section 6)
- **The Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act, 2024**
- The National Education Policy Act 27 of 1996
- The Language in Education Policy (LiEP)

- **The Admission of Learners to Public Schools Regulations, 2025 (Notice 3415 of 2025)**
- Applicable Gauteng Department of Education circulars and directives

The policy recognises that:

- Every learner has the right to receive education in an official language where reasonably practicable.
- Public schools must promote multilingualism and social cohesion.

- School Governing Bodies determine the language policy of the school, subject to the Constitution, national legislation, and the **oversight authority of the Head of Department (HOD)** as reaffirmed by the BELA Act.
- **No learner may be unfairly discriminated against on the basis of language** (Admission Regulations 2025, reg. 9).
- **Language competence testing shall not be used as an admissions requirement** (consistent with reg. 9).

Impala Crescent Primary School acknowledges the linguistic diversity of its learners and community while maintaining English as the official Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) of the school and Afrikaans as the First Additional Language.

VISION

Impala Crescent Primary School aims to be a leading institution in the delivery of quality education, where every learner feels valued and inspired.

MISSION

To deliver a curriculum that is based on humanistic values, is future orientated, of a high standard and comprehensive to:

- *Support the schooling process by improving our management, administration, teaching, learning, assessments and overall standards.*
- *Establish both the culture and capacity for lifelong learning amongst our learners and staff. Encompassing values of integrity, passion for accountability and truth.*

6. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to:

- 6.1 Promote multilingualism and respect for all official languages.
- 6.2 Ensure compliance with the Constitution, SASA, **the BELA Act**, and **Admission Regulations 2025**.
- 6.3 Determine the Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) at the school.
- 6.4 Determine the languages offered as subjects.
- 6.5 Ensure fair access to education without unfair discrimination based on language.
- 6.6 Promote effective teaching, learning and communication within the school community.
- 6.7 Provide guidance regarding admissions and language support.
- 6.8 Recognise the **HOD's authority** to intervene where a language policy unfairly limits access to education.

7. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Term	Definition
"Act"	South African Schools Act 84 of 1996, as amended
"BELA Act"	Basic Education Laws Amendment Act, 2024

Term	Definition
"Department"	Gauteng Department of Education
"FAL"	First Additional Language
"HL"	Home Language
"HOD"	Head of Department (Provincial)
"LOLT"	Language of Learning and Teaching
"Multilingualism"	The ability to use and promote more than one language
"SGB"	School Governing Body

8. APPLICATION AND SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies to:

- All learners enrolled at Impala Crescent Primary School
- All educators and staff members
- Members of the School Governing Body
- Parents and guardians interacting with the school

The policy governs:

- The Language of Learning and Teaching
- Languages offered as subjects
- Communication practices
- Admissions related to language
- Learner language support
- Compliance with HOD directives

9. LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

This policy must be read together with:

- 9.1 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- 9.2 South African Schools Act 84 of 1996, as amended
- 9.3 **Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Act, 2024**

9.4 National Education Policy Act 27 of 1996

9.5 Gauteng School Education Act, 1995

9.6 Language in Education Policy (LiEP)

9.7 Admission of Learners to Public Schools Regulations, 2025 (Notice 3415 of 2025)

9.8 Any applicable circulars, regulations and directives issued by the GDE and DBE

10. RELEVANT POLICIES AND CIRCULARS

10.1 Language in Education Policy

10.2 Norms and Standards Regarding Language Policy in Public Schools

10.3 Admission Policy for Ordinary Public Schools (as per 2025 Regulations)

10.4 National Curriculum Statement (CAPS)

10.5 Relevant GDE Circulars, including those on language and admissions

11. POLICY STATEMENTS - GUIDING PRINCIPLES

11.1 Language plays a critical role in learning and cognitive development.

11.2 Multilingualism promotes social cohesion and inclusivity.

11.3 Learners should be supported to develop proficiency in more than one language.

11.4 **No learner may be excluded, refused admission, or unfairly discriminated against because of language** (Admission Regulations 2025, reg. 9).

11.5 Effective communication between the school and parents is essential.

11.6 Language policy decisions must align with national and provincial legislation.

11.7 **The HOD has final authority to admit a learner to a public school after consultation with the SGB** (Admission Regulations 2025, reg. 6), and may intervene if the language policy is inconsistent with constitutional obligations or unfairly limits access.

12. LANGUAGE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING (LOLT)

12.1 Impala Crescent Primary School is a **single-medium English school**.

12.2 The official Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) is **English**.

12.3 All teaching, learning, formal assessment and official academic activities shall primarily take place in English.

12.4 Reasonable support measures, including **code-switching and multilingual support strategies**, may be used where necessary to assist learner understanding, particularly in the Foundation Phase.

12.5 The school may provide additional language support programmes where resources permit.

13. LANGUAGES OFFERED AS SUBJECTS

13.1 **English** shall be offered as the **Home Language**.

13.2 **Afrikaans** shall be offered as the **First Additional Language (FAL)**.

13.3 The school currently does not offer any foreign language subjects.

13.4 Teaching time shall comply with CAPS requirements and Departmental policy.

13.5 Additional language offerings may be considered subject to:

- Learner demand
- Availability of qualified educators

- Available resources
- Approval by the Department where applicable

14. LANGUAGE BY SCHOOL PHASE

14.1 Foundation Phase (Grades 1-3)

- English - Home Language
- Afrikaans - First Additional Language
- Teachers may use multilingual support strategies (including code-switching) to facilitate understanding and transition into the LOLT.

14.2 Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-6)

- English - LOLT and Home Language
- Afrikaans - First Additional Language

14.3 Senior Phase (Grade 7)

- English - LOLT and Home Language
- Afrikaans - First Additional Language

15. LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION

15.1 Official school communication, reports, notices and correspondence shall primarily be issued in **English**.

15.2 Where reasonably practicable, the school may provide translated communication or interpretation support to parents.

15.3 Parent meetings and school engagements may include multilingual support where necessary and feasible.

15.4 **Learners shall not be punished or discriminated against for speaking languages other than the LOLT** outside formal teaching activities, provided school rules and standards of respectful conduct are maintained.

15.5 The school promotes respect for all languages and cultures represented within the school community.

16. LANGUAGE AND ADMISSIONS

This section is materially updated to align with the Admission of Learners to Public Schools Regulations, 2025 (Notice 3415 of 2025).

16.1 The school may not unfairly discriminate against any learner on the basis of language (reg. 9).

16.2 **Language competence testing shall not be used as an admissions requirement or as a barrier to admission** (reg. 9, read with the prohibition on unfair discrimination).

16.3 Parents exercise language choices on behalf of minor learners during the admissions process.

16.4 Admission to the school shall be subject to:

- Compliance with the school's admission policy
- Availability of space (capacity)
- The learner's acceptance of **English as the LOLT**

16.5 Parents enrolling learners at the school acknowledge and accept that:

- English is the official LOLT
- Afrikaans is offered as the First Additional Language

16.6 Where a parent requests a different LOLT not offered by the school, the school shall refer the parent to the **Gauteng Department of Education** for guidance regarding placement at another suitable school (consistent with the HOD's coordination role under reg. 4 and 6).

16.7 In accordance with **SASA (as amended by BELA) and Admission Regulations 2025**, the school's language policy remains subject to applicable legislation and oversight by the **Head of Department**. The HOD may, after consultation with the **SGB**, admit a learner to the school even where the language policy would otherwise exclude them, if required to ensure access to education (reg. 6).

16.8 The school's admission policy (separate document) must be made available to parents and to the Department upon request (reg. 5(3)).

17. LEARNER SUPPORT AND MULTILINGUALISM

17.1 The school supports **additive multilingualism** and values learners' home languages.

17.2 Teachers are encouraged to use inclusive teaching practices that support learner understanding and participation.

17.3 Where reasonably practicable, learners experiencing language barriers may receive academic support or referral to support services.

17.4 The school shall encourage cultural and linguistic respect among learners and staff.

18. REVIEW AND MONITORING

18.1 This policy shall be reviewed **annually** or whenever legislative amendments (including further **BELA** regulations or admission regulations) require revision.

18.2 The School Governing Body shall monitor implementation of this policy in consultation with school management.

18.3 The **Head of Department** may, in terms of the **BELA Act** and **Admission Regulations 2025**, request the **SGB** to review and amend the policy if it does not comply with the Act or regulations (reg. 7).

19. SHORT TITLE

This policy shall be known as the **Language Policy of Impala Crescent Primary School**.

20. APPROVAL

Recommended by (Principal)	
Print name	
Signature	
Date	

Recommended by (Principal)	
Approved by (SGB Chairperson)	
Print name	
Signature	
Date	
Verified by (District Director / GDE)	
Print name	
Signature	
Date	

21. Summary of key synergies and legal alignments achieved:

1. **BELA Act & 2025 Admissions Regulations integrated:** Expressly prohibits language-based discrimination in admissions (reg. 9) and prohibits language competence testing as an admissions barrier.
2. **HOD oversight recognised:** The policy acknowledges the HOD's final authority to admit learners and to review language policies that may unfairly limit access - a key BELA amendment.
3. **Single-medium English maintained** but with explicit support for multilingualism and code-switching (additive bilingualism).
4. **No punishment for speaking other languages** outside formal teaching activities - aligned with constitutional rights.
5. **Annual review clause** added to ensure ongoing compliance with evolving regulations.
6. **Parental choice respected** but bounded by school's capacity and LOLT; referral to GDE where requested language not offered.