Laerskool Welgemoed Primary

POLICY: Language

1. GENERAL

- Welgemoed Primary School acknowledges and respects the right for all official languages to enjoy equal status and that all learners have the right to be educated in the official language of their choice.

- It is the school's policy to maintain Home Language for learning and instruction, while learners are also required and encouraged to acquire additional languages.

- Multilingualism is seen as an extension of our cultural diversity, which we embrace as an asset in the common pursuit of achieving individual and national goals to function optimally and to realise social and economic potential.

2. FACTORS DETERMINING THE LANGUAGE POLICY OF WELGEMOED PRIMARY

- the language preference of the majority of learners and parents of our school;

- the number of learners who ask for instruction in another language (minority groups);

- other schools in the vicinity and their language of learning and instruction;

- the availability of educators to teach in a particular language;

- the space available in the school;

- the cost involved.

3. REASONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PRESENT LANGUAGE POLICY OF WELGEMOED PRIMARY

- Welgemoed Primary is a parallel-medium school, Afrikaans and English.

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- Afrikaans and English are the languages preferred by the majority of learners and parents of our school.

- Although we have a number of learners who speak a home language other than English or Afrikaans, no requests have been received for a language of learning and instruction other than Afrikaans or English.

- Other schools in the vicinity of our school, both primary and high schools, are also schools in which either Afrikaans or English or both Afrikaans and English are used as the languages of learning and instruction.

- Although we have a number of educators at our school who are capable of teaching a second additional language (Xhosa), the home language of all our educators is either Afrikaans or English with nearly 100% being proficient in both Afrikaans and English.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY

- Welgemoed Primary School is a **parallel-medium school**. **Home Language** is promoted as the language of learning and instruction and learners receive education in their preferred language of learning and instruction in separate classes in either **Afrikaans or English.**

- **Afrikaans and English** are taught as **First Additional Languages** from Grade 1 to 7. Learners receive the necessary skills to read, listen, speak and write in their First Additional Language.

- **Time allocated** per week for instruction in Languages:

Home Language	First Additional Language	Grade
8:00	2:00	1
8:00	2:00	2
8:00	3:00	3
6:00	5:00	4 – 6
5:00	4:00	7

- **Assessment** of Home Language, First Additional Language and Second Additional Language for purposes of promotion, is done in accordance with the requirements set out in the CAPS document.

- **Communication** with **learners** is done bilingually. Announcements over the school intercom system are done in both languages and assembly is presented in Afrikaans and English alternatively.

- **Communication** with **parents** takes place in both Afrikaans and English (notices, circulars, school website, school newspaper, e-mail and SMS).

- Educators budget within their grades for **learning material** to support language programmes.

- All learners of the school have access to a well-equipped **media** and **computer centre**.

- **Class visits** by peers and supervisors as well **as learning area control** serve to **monitor management** and **maintain quality** with regard to the language policy of the school.

- Educators attend **workshops** aimed at the professional development and re-orientation of language educators.

- There is **interaction** with **high school** role-players to ensure that the language curriculum covers areas of concern.

5. FUTURE REVISION OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY OF WELGEMOED PRIMARY SCHOOL

- The language policy of Welgemoed Primary School will annually be revised and submitted to the role-players involved.

- The language policy will be available for prospective parents and it will form part of the signed admission agreement entered into on enrolment.

- The school will endeavour as far as possible to appoint educators so as to maintain similar educator and learner profiles (% Home Language proficient educators similar to % Home Language users).

- Language requests will be kept on record. Should 40 or more requests be received for a language of learning and instruction other than Afrikaans and English in Grade 1 – 6 and 35 or more requests in Grade 7, the EMDC will be contacted to determine how the needs of these learners will be met.

- Should the need arise, the appointment of language aides could be considered to assist class educators with learners whose home language is neither Afrikaans nor English.