



Language Policy for Edgemean High School

1. Preamble

This Policy will be underpinned by the following:

- 1.1 Everyone has the right to receive education in the official language or languages of their choice in public educational institutions where that education is reasonably practicable. In the implementation of this right, consideration must be given to reasonable educational alternatives, including single medium institutions, taking into account:
 - a. equity
 - b. practicability
 - c. the need to redress the results of past racially discriminatory laws and practices.
- 1.2 Diversity, fostering tolerance and respect for all languages.
- 1.3 Non-discrimination.

This policy has been developed, and will be interpreted and applied in line with the provisions, spirit and meaning of:

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
- The South African School Act, Act 84 of 1996
- The National Education Policy Act, Act 27 of 1996
- Western Cape Provincial School Education Act, Act 12 of 1997
- The Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill (BELA), Act 32 of 2024
- and any prescribed policies, directives or guidelines.

2. Implementation

In the development and implementation of this policy, the following factors are to be considered:

- The interests of the learners
- The interests of the school community
- The interests of the broader community
- The capacity of the school
- The resources and staff available to the school
- International best practice with regards to class sizes and language in education, with specific reference to the importance of mother tongue education.

3. Medium of instruction

The Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) at Edgemean High School is English. The school is a public English medium high school.



The School Governing Body (SGB) will consider written representation should 35 or more learners whose home language is not English, apply to be enrolled in a Grade and who wish to learn through the medium of their home language, should such home language be one of the Official Languages of the country and depending on whether this is practical or not. Such requests will also be submitted to the Head of Department (HOD) for approval, in line with the Basic Education Laws Amendment Act (BELA Act), which requires the HOD to ensure alignment with the Constitution, the South African Schools Act, and the principles of equity, practicability, and redress.

The school will keep a record of all requests by learners for a different LoLT which cannot be met. A recognised Sign Language has the status of an Official Language for purposes of learning.

4. Teaching and examination

All teaching and the taking of tests and examinations, except for subjects Afrikaans and isiXhosa where applicable, shall occur in the school's medium of instruction.

5. Language as subjects

The SGB is committed to the concept of multilingualism, specifically, that ideally, all learners should, at differing levels of proficiency, be able to communicate in the three official languages of the Western Cape (English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa).

All pupils are required to take English **Home** Language from **Grades 8 to 12**.

In Grades 8 and 9, all pupils are also required to take Afrikaans **First Additional Language**.

In Grades 10 – 12, pupils must, in addition to English Home Language, either take:

- Xhosa **First Additional**; or
- Afrikaans **First Additional**

The SGB commits itself to ensuring that the teachers of all languages are competent and qualified to teach the language.

6. Language of Communication

As a rule, the language of all internal and external communication from the school shall be English, including formal meetings, assemblies and engagements, communication with parents, brochures, programmes etc. In the case of parents who do not understand English, every reasonable effort will be made to verbally communicate with them in one of the other Official Languages of the country.

The school will nonetheless promote multilingualism. The school encourages the use of learner's home language in the classroom in group activities/informal discussions where deemed appropriate by the educator. Learners are also encouraged to learn basic greetings and exchanges in languages represented at the school.

While School Assemblies will be conducted in English, the school may consider conducting assemblies in whole or in part in one of the other official languages of the Western Cape. Attendance at all assemblies is compulsory, regardless of the language in which it is conducted.

It is expected that due respect and appropriate demeanour be maintained by all throughout such activities.

Educators, learners and staff must ensure that individuals and groups are protected from ignorance, stereotypes, caricatures, and denigration during teaching and communication of Language.



7. The role of the SGB

One of the responsibilities of the School Governing Body (SGB) is to develop, approve and oversee the implementation of school policies. The SGB shall in the application and interpretation of this policy, and any matters related thereto, including cases of apparent contradiction between this policy and any other policy of the school, and in its decision making, take into account the underlying values of the Constitution, including the best interest of the child; the right to just and fair administrative action; the right as it relates to education; and the need to ensure the effective administration and smooth running of the school in providing quality education. The SGB also reserves the right to consult with relevant experts if it deems necessary.

8. Conclusion

All role players and stakeholders must promote and enhance understanding of and respect for human dignity and equality and acknowledge rights and responsibilities of all at Edgemean High School.

Revised and Adopted by the School Governing Body of Edgemean High School on 2/03/2020

Signed: _____

SGB Chairperson: Mrs N Vorster

Headmaster: Mr J Erasmus

