



LANGUAGE POLICY

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Introduction

- The SUTHERLAND ACADEMY Language Policy was developed based on requirements and recommendations of the Department of Basic Education’s “Language in Education Policy,” the National Education Policy Act and the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
- This policy informs the language planning and language management at SUTHERLAND ACADEMY in the context of classroom teaching and learning to fulfil our mission to create global citizens.

Approach

- There are eleven (11) languages granted official status in the Constitution.
- SUTHERLAND ACADEMY is an independent school, which has a responsibility to “meet all learning outcomes and assessment standards prescribed” by the Department of Basic Education’s national curriculum standards.
- SUTHERLAND ACADEMY has the right to “choose their own curriculum and examinations” and “pursue a particular philosophy or methodology” (Rights and Responsibilities of Independent Schools, Department of Basic Education, 2008).



Languages as Subjects

- SUTHERLAND ACADEMY is an English-medium school, meaning that the language of learning and teaching (LOLT) and behaviour management for all subjects, with the exception of additional languages taught, shall be English.
- SUTHERLAND ACADEMY offers as 2 first additional languages, mandatory from Grade 1: An African Language and a European Language. The exact nature of these languages will be decided when more information on the demographics of the estate are known, to suit the needs of the local community.

Language of Assessment

- Assessment is to be conducted in English. Both English (LOLT) and first additional languages (FAL) will be assessed.

Social and Cultural Language

- SUTHERLAND ACADEMY learners are free to speak with their peers in the language in which they are most comfortable while on the playground, in communal spaces, or during social interactions.
- Acknowledging that language plays a significant role in cultural identity, SUTHERLAND ACADEMY parents/guardians are encouraged to continue speaking with their child in their home language, to instil cultural values and practices related to home language.

Communication

- All communication with parents and learners will be in English.



School Regulation

- Discriminatory behaviour based on language, intentional or otherwise, will not be tolerated at SUTHERLAND ACADEMY.
- The school may have enrolments of pupils and students whose home language is other than English. These could include a variety of international and South African languages. These pupils and students will be well supported and encouraged by our competent teachers. Should these numbers increase drastically; the school will investigate the possibility of other support structures.

Promotion of Literacy and Language Development

- Part of the promotion of Literacy, will presuppose that reading is done every day. Teachers will encourage pupils and students to read and will promote a love of reading and languages.
- Parents are encouraged to read with their children for 30 minutes a day
- Graded readers will be provided to promote a structured approach to the teaching of reading up to grade three.

This policy will be reviewed and altered, within the curriculum framework, on a bi-annual basis or when necessary.