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GROWING IN GRACE CHRISTIAN PRIMARY

**1.  PREAMBLE**

South Africa is a country with a diversity of cultures and languages.   We aim to develop two of the official languages, English and Afrikaans. We also aim to create awareness of and respect for all languages used in the country, including South African Sign Language and the languages referred to in the South African Constitution.

**2.  PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

* To promote and develop all official languages.
	+ To establish multilingualism as an approach to language in education.
	+ To identify and determine a Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) as well as the approved language/s to be offered to learners at the school.
	+ To ensure that no form of discrimination takes place on the basis of language.

**3.  DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

**7.1   DEFINITIONS**

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| **No.** | **Term** | **Definition** |
| 7.1.1 | “The Act” | Means the South African Schools Act, Act No.84 of 1996 as amended |
| 7.1.2 | “The school” | Refers to (Growing in Grace Christian School) |
| 7.1.3 | learner | Any person registered to receive education at the school |
| 7.1.4 | multilingualism | The ability to use several languages |
| 7.1.5 | Home Language | A preferred or first language of choice that a learner may offer for learning and teaching purposes |
| 7.1.6 | First Additional Language. | An alternative or an additional language to Home Language that a learner may offer for learning and teaching purposes |

**7.2   ACRONYMS**

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| **No.** | **Acronyms** | **Explanation** |
| 7.2.1 | LoLT (Language of Learning and Teaching) | Refers to the approved language that will be used as a medium of instruction in the school and must be an official language with a valid syllabus at Home or First Additional language level. |
| 7.2.3 | HL | Home Language |
| 7.2.4 | FAL | First Additional Language |

**4.  APPLICATION AND SCOPE OF THE POLICY**

* The language policy applies to all learners and educators and covers the Language of Learning and Teaching and Language as a subject.

**5.  LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

* Constitution of South Africa, (Act No. 108 of 1996 as amended)
	+ South African Schools Act, (Act No. 84 of 1996 as amended)
	+ National Education Policy Act 1996, (Act No. 27 of 1996)
	+ Gauteng School Education Act, 1995 (Act No. 6 of 1995) as amended)

**6.  RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROVINCIAL CIRCULARS**

                10.1 Language in Education Policy, published in terms of section 3(4)(m) of the National Education Policy Act 1996, (Act 27 of 1996).

1. Norms and Standards regarding language policy published in terms of section 6(1) of the South African Schools Act, (Act 84 of 1996).
	1. Circular 20 of 2009 – Registration Procedures for Entry to the National Senior Certificate Examinations (Gr.10 to 12)

**7.  POLICY STATEMENTS**

**11.1 KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY**

As a school we recognise the diversity of cultures and languages in our country and consider the following realities to shape the language policy:

1. The thorough development of a child’s language skill is a reliable predictor of future cognitive competence.
2. Both the Home Language and Language of Learning and Teaching are important because the Home Language plays the primary role in developing literacy and thinking skills and is of importance in enhancing the protection and further development of the indigenous language, while the Language of Learning (in particular English) is the one in which learners must master educational concepts, and provides a platform to participate and engage meaningfully in the information age on a global stage.
3. The University Language of Instruction in South Africa is predominantly English. however it is necessary for schools to promote other indigenous languages for the purpose of learner mobility and access.
4. The promotion of multilingualism enhances opportunity for learners to access jobs and participate in the socio – economic development of the country.

**11.2 LANGUAGE OF LEARNING AND TEACHING (LoLT)**

a. Growing in Grace primary school is a single medium school.

b. Based on the population groups and the choices made by the parent population of the school, the language of learning and teaching at the school is English and the First Additional Language is Afrikaans.

**11.3   LANGUAGES AS SUBJECTS**

   a. The school does not offer any languages as a subject other than English and Afrikaans.

   b. The school does not offer a foreign language.

   c. All languages shall receive notional time and resource allocation as stipulated in the CAPS Policy Documents.

**11.4    LANGUAGE BY SCHOOL TYPE**

In all phases, the school will offer English as the official Language of Learning and Teaching (LoLT) and Afrikaans will be the First Additional Language (FAL).

**11.5.     LANGUAGE OF COMMUNICATION**

11.5.1. School reports as well as official written communication issued by the
             school will be in English.

1. Articles in the school newsletter will be written in the languages indicated in (11.2) and (11.3)
	1. General parents’ meetings shall be addressed in English and where necessary an interpreter may be utilised.
	2. No learner shall be punished for expressing himself/herself in a   language which is not the language of learning and teaching at the school.
	3. Learners will be encouraged to communicate with each other in English when on the school premises.

**11.6.     LANGUAGE AND ADMISSIONS**

1. Learners will be required to be able to understand and speak English to be accepted at Growing in Grace as it is the only language of instruction.
2. Learners will need to pass a basic diagnostic test if they are in grades higher than grade 3 for them to be eligible for acceptance at the school.