

St Andrew's College and Preparatory School and The Diocesan School for Girls



LANGUAGE POLICY

St Andrew's College and Preparatory School and The Diocesan School for Girls are located in the semi-rural, University town of Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

As South African schools, we proudly celebrate the diversity of our society and its many cultures. Multilingualism is the conduit to creating cohesion between, understanding of, and respect for this diversity.

We also recognise that globalisation is a social, economic and cultural reality, and that our pupils need to be prepared to contribute to society throughout the continent of Africa and the world at large.

Language creates meaning. We appreciate the importance of language in developing refined and profound cognitive processes within each individual's mind that empower them to construct meaning of the physical and natural world they inhabit, as well as the human and spiritual mysteries of living fulfilled lives in social groups, and then being able to communicate this meaning accurately and with full use of the rich palette of subtle hues that each language provides.

In order to effect these beliefs, we subscribe to the following Language Policy:

- The Language of Instruction is English
- In order to provide exceptional teaching, educators must be highly skilled in English. This is important because it exposes pupils to the inspiring richness of the language, it allows for greater rigour in assessment and also for greater nuance and sophistication in reporting to parents.
- Cognisance must, however, be taken of the experience and quality of the educator concerned, without being prescriptive to the above, in the interests of providing excellent, quality education. It is also accepted that teachers of languages other than English should primarily be specialists in their respective languages and in the teaching thereof.
- All pupils will study English Home Language.
- Afrikaans Home Language is offered to pupils in *lieu* of a First Additional Language.
- Afrikaans and isiXhosa are offered as First Additional Languages to pupils who will have been resident in South Africa, or enrolled in a South African School prior to Grade 7.

- French Second Additional Language will be offered as the First Additional Language to pupils who are classified by the IEB as having Immigrant Status. i.e. they have not been continuously enrolled in a South African school prior to Grade 7.
- French Second Additional Language is offered to any pupil who wishes to take it as a Second Additional Language in option 4 for Grade 10 - 12.
- Pupils in Grade 4 to Grade 9 are encouraged to learn a Second Additional Language with a focus on conversational skills and general understanding of the culture of the language. In Grades 4 – 7, isiXhosa and Afrikaans are offered. In Grades 8 and 9, pupils may choose to do Classical Civilisations, French, isiXhosa, Mandarin, Computers or Music.

This Language Policy is subscribed to in good faith and with the intention of promoting quality education, multilingualism and critical thinking skills. However, the schools are subject to budgetary and human resources constraints, which may from time to time change, and affect our ability to fulfil the ideals to which we aspire.

MelanAid
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