

LANGUAGE POLICY OF ARISE ACADEMIC CENTRE

01 Introduction

a. Reason for development: The Arise Academic Centre 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.

b. Multilingualism: We affirm that multilingualism and equitable language rights are protected in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and that the promotion of multilingualism demonstrates our commitment to nurturing respect for diversity amongst our students.

c. Language Planning: This policy informs the language planning and language management at Arise Academic Centre in the context of classroom teaching and learning to fulfil our mission to support learners to reach their full potential.

02 Approach

a. Constitution: There are eleven (11) languages granted official status in the Constitution.

b. Right of Education: The Constitution provides for the right of all students to receive education at public education facilities in the official language of their choice.

c. Responsibility: Arise Academic Centre 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 (Rights and Responsibilities of Independent Schools, Department of Basic Education, 2008).

d. Right: Arise Academic Centre 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).

e. Being multilingual: The Department of Basic Education has determined that "being multilingual should be a defining characteristic of being South African" and that "societal and individual multilingualism are the global norm today" (Language in Education Policy, Department of Basic Education, 2007).

f. Effective Language Acquisition: Finally, "a wide spectrum of opinions exists as to the locally viable approaches towards multilingual education" with a school's responsibility to "maintain home language(s) while providing access to and the effective acquisition of additional languages" (Language in Education Policy, Department of Basic Education, 2007).

03 Language of Learning and Teaching

a. Primary Languages: Arise Academic Centre is a dual-medium school. The primary languages of learning and teaching at Arise Academic Centre are Afrikaans and English.

04 Language Allocation in Grades 1 – 3

a. Separate Classes: In Grades 1 – 3, students will be placed in separate classes according to their home language. This is to ensure that the foundation for their home language is established within their foundation years.

b. Afrikaans Class: Students in the Afrikaans class will have Afrikaans as their home language and English as additional language. All other subjects will be taught in Afrikaans.

c. English Class: Students in the English class will have English as their Home Language and Afrikaans as an Additional Language. All other subjects will be taught in English.

05 Language Allocation in Grades 4 – 7

a. Dual Medium Classes: In Grades 4 - 9, classes will be dual medium.

b. Home Language Levels: All students will take Afrikaans and English at Home Language levels.

c. Subject Language Instruction: For all other subjects, teachers will use both English and Afrikaans, alternating between the languages to teach the subject content.

In the event of expansion and the growing of the number of learners the Grade 4 – 7 group, learners will also be divided according to their home language as in the foundation phase, and the following structure will apply:

d. Separate Classes: In Grades 4 - 7, students will be placed in separate classes according to their home language.

e. Afrikaans Class: Students in the Afrikaans class will have Afrikaans as their home language and English as additional language. All other subjects will be taught in Afrikaans.

f. English Class: Students in the English class will have English as their Home Language and Afrikaans as an Additional Language. All other subjects will be taught in English.

06 Assessments

a. Home Language Assessments: Assessments will take place in learners' Home Language. Students will be assessed in both Afrikaans and English based on their designated Home Language. With exception to Language assessments. All Afrikaans Language assessments will be done in Afrikaans, and the same for all English Language assessments that will be done in English.

07 Language support

a. Additional Support: Students requiring additional language support will have access to language support services. These may include additional classes, language tutors, or specialized programs to address individual needs. Our school will also provide learners with the opportunity to receive accommodations during their assessments. These learners will apply for such accommodations and exemptions.

08 Cultural Sensitivity

a. Cultural Awareness: The school recognizes the cultural diversity of its student body. Efforts will be made to incorporate cultural sensitivity and awareness within language education, fostering an environment where all students feel valued and respected.

b. Communication: Arise Academic Centre students are free to speak with their peers in the language in which they are most comfortable while on the playground, in common spaces, or in social interactions.

c. Cultural Identity: Acknowledging that language plays a significant role in cultural identity, Arise Academic Centre parents/guardians are encouraged to continue speaking with their child in their home language, to instil cultural values and practices related to home language, and to support their child in expressing these cultural values and practices so that they can be shared with peers at school. We value diversity and the expression of diverse cultures at our Arise Academic Centre events, when we celebrate public holidays at school, and through our themed units of study, as well.

09 Parental Involvement

a. Communication with Parents: Regular communication with parents will be maintained in both Afrikaans and English. Parent-teacher meetings, newsletters, and other communication channels will be available in both languages to ensure effective and inclusive communication.

10 Rules

a. Discrimination: Discriminatory behaviour on the basis of language, intentional or otherwise, will not be tolerated at Arise Academic Centre. This applies when on the school grounds at any time, but also at other school related events, and also in instances where the learner can reasonably be recognised as a learner of the school.

11 Continuous Review

a. Policy Review: The language policy will be subject to periodic review to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Feedback from stakeholders, including students, parents, and educators, will be considered in the ongoing development and refinement of the language policy. This language policy reflects Arise Academic Centre's commitment to providing a tailored language education that recognises and respects the linguistic diversity of its student body, ensuring an inclusive and effective learning environment.

Signature : _____ Date : _____

Name: _____