

# LANGUAGE POLICY

# ASHBURY SCHOOL

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**Together We Grow**

This document outlines the language policy of Ashbury School

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## **1. PREAMBLE:**

- 1.1 This Language Policy Document should be seen as part of a continuous process that operates within the following paradigm:
- 1.2 In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the management of Ashbury School recognizes that our cultural diversity is a valuable national asset and hence is tasked, amongst other things, to promote multilingualism, development of the official language, and respect for all languages.
- 1.3 This Language Policy is conceived as an integral and necessary aspect of management's role in assisting with the building of a non-racial nation in South Africa. It is meant to facilitate communication across the barriers of colour, language and religion, while at the same time create an environment in which respect for languages other than one's own is encouraged.
- 1.4 This approach is in line with the fact both societal and individual multilingualism is the global norm today, especially on the African continent. Such as, it assumes that the learning of more than one language should be general practice and principle in our society. That is to say, being multilingual should be a defining characteristic of being South African. It is constructed also to counter any particularistic ethnic chauvinism or separation through mutual understanding.
- 1.5 The underlying principle is to maintain home language(s) while providing access to and the effective acquisition of additional languages. Hence Ashbury's position that an additive approach to bilingualism is to be seen as the normal orientation of our language policy.
- 1.6 The right to choose the language of learning and teaching is vested in the individual. This right has however, to be exercised with an understanding that Ashbury School has, as its language of learning and teaching (LOLT) chosen English.
- 1.7 The paradigm also presupposes a more fluid relationship between languages and culture that is generally understood in the Eurocentric model which we have inherited in South Africa. It accepts a priori that there is no contradiction in a multicultural society between a core of common cultural traits, beliefs, practices etc. and particular sectional or communal cultures. Indeed the relationship between the two can and should be mutually reinforcing and should give rise to and sustain genuine respect for the variability of the communities that constitute the Ashbury community.

## **2. AIMS:**

Recognising that diversity is a valuable asset, which as a school Ashbury is required to respect, the aim of this language policy is the promotion, fulfillment and development of language goals in education in compliance with the Constitution, namely:

- 2.1 The protection, fulfillment and extension of the individual's language rights and means of communication in education.
- 2.2 To pursue the language policy most supportive of general conceptual growth amongst students, and hence to establish additive multilingualism as an approach to language in education.
- 2.3 To promote and develop as many official languages as practicable.

2.4 To counter disadvantages resulting from different kinds of mismatches between home languages and the language of learning and teaching.

2.5 To develop programmes for the improvement of English resulting from the above mismatches.

**3. THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS:**

3.1 The parent/guardian exercises the minor student's language rights on behalf of the minor student.

3.2 If the parent/guardian chooses English as the LOLT and applies to Ashbury School, and where there is place available in the relevant grade, Ashbury School, may admit the student, provided all other requirements in terms of the Admission Policy have been met.

**4. LANGUAGES OF LEARNING AND TEACHING AND LANGUAGE SUBJECTS:**

4.1 All students in Ashbury School shall learn the language of learning and teaching (English) at home language level and one additional approved language.

4.2 The First Additional Language at Ashbury School at present is Afrikaans.

4.3 The promotion requirements and level achievement required for promotion that applies to language subjects shall be determined by the Gauteng Department of Education.

**5. TIME ALLOCATION:**

5.1 The time allocated to the teaching of language subjects is determined by policy laid down by the Gauteng Department of Education.

**6. CONCLUSION**

This language policy is not to be regarded as conclusive, but rather as a policy document that can be amended as the needs of the Ashbury School community dictates.