



# Language Policy

# STEPS ACADEMY LANGUAGE POLICY

## 1. Introduction

This document is the language policy of Steps Academy, as approved by the PLC and adopted thereafter.

The language policy has been drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996; the South African Schools Act, Act 84 of 1996 ('SASA'); the National Education Policy Act, Act 27 of 1996; applicable provincial legislation on school education; judgements of the South African courts; the International Convention on the Rights of the Child; the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children; the Norms and Standards for Language Policy in Public Schools,

## 2. Factors considered

In drafting this policy, the following factors have been considered:

Steps Academy follows the International Cambridge curriculum

The interests of the learners

The interests of the school community

The interests of the community in which the school is located

The capacity of the school

The resources and staff available to the school

International best practice about class sizes and language in education, with specific reference to the importance of using English as a medium of instruction.

**3. Teaching and examination** All teaching and the taking of tests and examinations shall occur in the school's medium/media of instruction.

#### **4. Policy on medium of instruction**

The school is a single-medium institution.

The medium of instruction is English from pre-grade R to Stage 13

#### **5. Promotion of multilingualism**

The school promotes multilingualism by also presenting Afrikaans and French at second language level at the school besides the medium of instruction.

This occurs as follows: Languages offered as fully-fledged subjects:

English as First Language and medium of instruction

Afrikaans as Second Additional Language Stage 1 – Stage 13

French as Second Additional Language – Stage 1 – Stage 13

Every educator at the school takes reasonable steps to inform learners on the importance of multilingualism, and to promote respect for other languages besides the medium of instruction.

All meetings in the school will be conducted in English. However, where a translator is required, the school and the parent can work together to arrange for the services of a translator.

All verbal feedback to parents regarding their children's progress will be conducted in English.

All correspondence will be through the medium of English namely, school brochures, bulletins on bulletin boards, timetables, letters, newspaper articles (except when the other approved languages – French and Afrikaans are being taught).

#### **6. Plans to accommodate Indigenous and Minority language needs at Steps Academy**

Cambridge IGCSE IsiZulu as a Second Language will be offered in the future if there is a demand.

Other Indigenous and minority languages will also be introduced if there is a demand.

Parents will then have to enter into a separate financial contractual agreement for any of these languages to be introduced at Steps Academy

**NB. This Policy may be amended, supplemented, modified or altered from time to time by the Board of Governors .**