

RONDEBOSCH BOYS' PREPARATORY SCHOOL – SGB POLICIES

POLICY: LANGUAGE POLICY

POLICY REF. NO. L1/08/2008 (Rev No. 0)

DATE: 6 AUGUST 2008

1. In accordance with Section 6 of the South African Schools' Act 84 of 1996, as amended, the constitution and the Language Policy for Public Schools as published in the Government Gazette (No 18546 dated 19 December 1997), the School Governing Body ("SGB") of Rondebosch Boys' Preparatory School ("RBPS") has determined the language policy of the school.
2. The RBPS language policy is non-racial and non-discriminatory. Respect for all peoples' languages is considered to be a priority. RBPS is mindful of the need to redress the neglect of the historically disadvantaged languages in school education.
3. The learner may indicate his language preference when application is made for admission to the school. Subject to the school's Admissions Policy, where the school presents learning in a learner's indicated language choice and where there is accommodation available in the specific grade, the school should not refuse the learner admission.
4. The medium of learning and teaching at RBPS is English since English is the home language of the majority of boys in the community and at the school. English is also the language of written communication with the parents and guardians.
5. RBPS recognizes the global norm of multi-lingualism and that the learning of more than one language is an important principle in our society. RBPS is committed to the promotion of tri-lingualism in respect of English, Afrikaans and Xhosa since these are the three official languages in the Western Cape. RBPS supports the underlying principle of maintaining home languages whilst providing access to and effective acquisition of additional languages.
6. The language required to be offered as a subject in Grades 1 and 2 is English. From Grade 3 the language required to be offered as a subject, in addition to the language of learning and teaching, is Afrikaans. The teaching of both subjects will, in accordance with the legislated requirements, be given the stipulated time, funds and the allotment of teaching aids.
7. The legislated promotion requirements for a learner relating to language subjects are adhered to at RBPS. In terms hereof, from Grades 1 to 4 promotion is based on performance in one language and Mathematics and from Grades 5 to 7 one language must be passed.
8. English and Afrikaans are taught for the majority of time allocated to language. Xhosa is taught for two half hour periods per week from grade 4 to grade 7.
9. The SGB decided to create the opportunity for the learning and teaching of Xhosa and employed a Xhosa teacher who works for three days a week at the school. This post is wholly funded by the SGB of RBPS.
10. The need to create the opportunity for pupils to have the skills necessary to take Xhosa as a second language when they reach High School has been recognized. To this end a plan has been put in place together with Rondebosch Boys' High School (PBHS"). In Grade 7, boys who wish to take Xhosa as a subject the following year, receive additional tuition from a suitably qualified RBHS teacher.

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11. English language support is offered for those learners whose mother tongue is not English. These include the following:
 - a. From Grade 4 to Grade 7 additional “reading for meaning” support, which includes comprehension skills, is given during legislated timetabled reading periods 3 times per week.
 - b. In Grades 5, 6 and 7 there are currently 48 parents, divided into 4 per class, who are working with the learners who need additional assistance to improve the quality of their reading.
 - c. In the Foundation Phase support is given, largely to learners whose first language is not English, by the remedial teacher (who is funded by the governing body), a speech and language therapist, a teacher assistant and parents who come in to assist.
 - d. Learners are catered for at different levels depending on their capability in respect of which English language proficiency is often a factor. This is particularly evident in the Foundation Phase. Materials from the WCED are used in relation to the specific ability of each different group of learners. They are exposed to reading literature at their own level through the Individualised Reading Programme.
12. Extra Afrikaans lessons scheduled twice a week are available for learners from Grades 4 to 7 who have difficulty with the Afrikaans language.

Date last amended: 25 July 2007

Date last reviewed: 25 July 2007

SIGNED:

Chairman RBPS Governing Body