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Language Policy

1. Background

1.1 In February 2002 the Western Cape Education Minister made public his request to the provincial Department of Education to establish a Ministerial Task Team to develop a strategy for implementing home language instruction during the first 7 years of schooling in the province. This request was grounded in the belief that the intended strategy, if implemented, will go a long way toward ensuring effective education, bearing in mind the role of mother-tongue education (MTE) in the cognitive environment of primary school children.

2. Legislation

2.1 The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa., Act 108 of 1996.

2.2 The South African Schools Act, Act 84 of 1996.

2.3 Department of Education, Language in Education Policy, 14 July 1997.

2.4 The Western Cape Provincial School Education Act, Act 12 of 1997.

2.5 The Revised National Curriculum Statement Grades R-9. Policy:

2.5.1 First Additional Language

3. Admission

3.1 All official languages enjoy equal status and respect and everyone has the right to receive education in the official language of his/her choice in public schools where education is reasonably practicable.

3.2 Language is not an admission requirement to SVPS.

4. Language of Teaching and Learning (LOTL)

4.1 In terms of the act the Governing Body determines the language policy. This is the language to be used for teaching and learning in the school i.e. language of instruction.

4.2 The language of instruction will be the language spoken by the majority. At Sun Valley Primary School (SVPS) the current language of the majority is English, therefore the school is regarded as a single medium school with English as the language of instruction. Additional languages will be offered as subjects.

4.3 Requirements for languages as subjects:

4.3.1 Two approved languages, one of which has to be the official language. The approved language of instruction is English, with Afrikaans as the approved subject.

4.3.2 isiXhosa is taught as a third language from Grade 1.