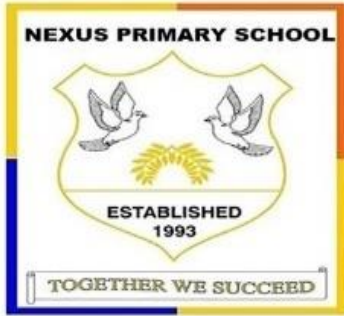


NEXUS PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Nexus Primary School Language Policy

SCHOOL STAMP

Date of Adoption by SGB _____ Signed: _____

Date of Verification by Department: _____ Signed: _____

NEXUS PRIMARY SCHOOL

LANGUAGE POLICY

(In accordance with the BELA Act, LiEP, and National Education Policy)

Date of Implementation: [2026]

Table of Contents

1. Preamble
 2. Purpose and Objectives
 3. Legislative and Policy Framework
 4. Scope of Application
 5. Definitions
 6. Guiding Principles and Values
 7. Roles and Responsibilities
 8. Policy Content and Provisions
 9. Communication and Dissemination of the Policy
 10. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Compliance
 11. Review and Revision of the Policy
 12. Approval and Adoption
-

1. PREAMBLE

1.1 Nexus Primary School adopts this Language Policy in alignment with the **Basic Education Laws Amendment Act (BELA Act)**, the **Language in Education Policy (1997)**, and the **Constitution of South Africa (1996)**.

1.2 We affirm the **right to equitable access to language in education**, and commit to **multilingualism** as a tool to promote social cohesion, learner inclusion, and academic success.

1.3 This policy guides our approach to language instruction, support, and management in creating future-ready, multilingual learners.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

- To ensure compliance with the BELA Act, 2024 (Clause 5) regarding language policies in public schools.
 - To foster **inclusivity**, respect for linguistic **diversity** through multilingual education. Nexus offers language spoken by its the community (Sesotho and Isizulu)
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- To promote equitable access to education through **mother-tongue-based bilingual education (MTBBE)** in the Foundation and Intermediate Phases, gradually transitioning to English in higher grades.
 - To offer additional language options and support quality language acquisition.
 - Strengthen literacy and numeracy outcomes by ensuring learners build a strong educational foundation in their home language(s).
 - Uphold the Constitution right to receive education in the official language(s) of choice where reasonably practicable (Section 29(2)).
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3. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

This policy is grounded in the following legislation:

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, (1996-Section 29(2) (language in education) and Section 6 (official languages)
 - South African Schools Act (Act 84 of 1996) as amended by BELA,2024 – Clause 5 grants authority to the Head of Department (HOD) to approve school language policies.
 - Basic Education Laws Amendment Act (BELA, 2024 – Clause 5 introduces stricter oversight on language policy to promote equity and inclusivity.
 - Language in Education Policy (LiEP),1997- Advocates multilingualism, additive bilingualism and mother tongue -based instruction.
 - Admission Policy for Ordinary Public Schools (1998)- Reinforces non- discrimination based on language.
 - Free State Department of Education Guidelines and Circulars on language of learning and teaching (LoLT)
 - Promotion of Access to Information Act (2000)
 - National Language Policy Framework (2003)
 - National Communication Strategy Framework (2014–2019)
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4. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This policy applies to:

- All **learners** and **educators** at Nexus Primary School
 - All staff, parents and the School Governing Body (SGB) in their roles relating to language use.
 - All **language subjects, language of learning and teaching (LoLT)**, and **language use** in school-related settings
 - Any **official correspondence, assessments, or instructional materials** used by the school
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5. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
LoLT	Language of Learning and Teaching (English, Sesotho or Isizulu)
Multilingualism	The use of two or more languages in educational or social contexts. (English, Sesotho or Isizulu)
Home Language	The language spoken most frequently at home by the learner (Sesotho and Isizulu)
First Additional Language (FAL)	A secondary language taught at school for general (proficiency) (English)
DAARr	Drop All and Read – a school literacy initiative
The Act	Use of Official Languages Act (Act 12 of 2012)

Mother Tongue: The first language a learner acquires at home and uses most frequently.

Bilingual Education: Instructional model where two languages are used systematically in teaching and learning.

Additive Bilingualism: Instructional model where a second language (e.g. English) is added without replacing the learner's home language.

Head of Department (HOD): Provincial education authority responsible for approving language policies.

6. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

- **Equity and non-discrimination** in language access: No learner may be excluded based on language.
- **Best interest of the Child (Constitution, Section 28(2))**
- **Linguistic Diversity:** Recognition of Sesotho, English and Afrikaans as key languages in the Free State schools.
- **Mother Tongue Foundation:** Use of learners' home language as a cognitive and cultural resource.
- **Inclusion** of all home languages spoken by the community, where feasible (for now it is Isizulu and Sesotho)
- **Respect** for cultural and linguistic diversity
- Promotion of **mother-tongue instruction** as a foundational right
- Commitment to **academic excellence** through clear language strategies

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

School Governing Body (SGB)

- Ensure the policy aligns with national mandates
- Apply for new language offerings where demand exists

Educators

- Implement the language policy in teaching
- Apply bilingual teaching strategies, Support multilingual learners, and adapt materials as needed.

Parents

- Choose and support appropriate home language development and offerings.
- Participate in consultations regarding language selection.

Principal: Implements the policy and ensures compliance with the departmental directives.

Learners: Respect the linguistic diversity of peers and embrace bilingual learning.

Head of Department (HOD): Reviews and approves the policy, ensures alignment with BELA and national language policies.

8. POLICY CONTENT AND PROVISIONS

Language instruction and subjects are offered in accordance with National Education Policy Guidelines. Language development is scaffolded and tailored for success at each grade level. Nexus is offering Sesotho and Isizulu as home languages and English as a First Additional Language.

8.1 Language of learning and Teaching (LoLT)

- **Foundation Phase (Grade R-3):** Learners receive instruction primarily in their mother tongue (Sesotho and Isizulu) with English gradually introduced as a subject.
- **Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-6):** Bilingual model- instruction provided in both mother tongue and English, with increasing use of English.
- **Senior Phase (Grade7):** English becomes the main LoLT, while the mother tongue continues as a subject and is used in some subjects to reinforce bilingualism.

8.2 Implementation Procedures

- **Bilingual Strategies:** Use of translanguaging, dual medium materials and bilingual teacher assistants where possible.

- **Curriculum Materials: Development** and provision of textbooks in Sesotho, Isizulu and English.
- **Language Support:** Extra support classes for learners transitioning to English medium of instruction.
- **Language Change Requests:** Parents may request changes to LoLT through the SGB. Requests are reviewed in consultation with the HOD.

8.3 Inclusivity for Special -Category Learners

- Learners from minority or foreign language background are not excluded.
- Learners with special educational needs will be supported and accommodations will be applied in time.

9. COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

- The policy will be made available via the school's website, notice boards, and official communication platforms.
- Orientation for parents and learners in every gathering.
- Teacher training workshops to support language policy implementation.

10. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND COMPLIANCE

- The School Management Team (SMT) and Language Committee will monitor implementation.
- Data on learner performance in languages will be tracked to inform support interventions.
- Non-compliance will be addressed through staff or learner disciplinary procedures.
- Feedback: Parent and learner feedback will be collected on quarterly basis.

11. REVIEW AND REVISION

This policy will be reviewed every **three years** or as required by changes in legislation.

12. Approval and Adoption

This policy is adopted by the School Governing Body of Nexus Primary on the 15th of October 2025.

Final Note

This Language Policy is a living document that reflects the linguistic, cultural, and educational goals of Nexus Primary School in accordance with national law. It is intended to provide every learner with equitable access to learning in a language they understand, while promoting unity in diversity.
