



## Language Policy

Date: 01 January 2025

### Introduction

At Martha Beyers Academy, we recognise the critical role that language plays in effective teaching and learning. As an English-medium school, our language policy is designed to ensure that all learners are equipped with the language skills necessary for academic success. This document outlines our approach to language instruction, support for learners from diverse linguistic backgrounds, and the expectations for parents and learners regarding English proficiency and additional language requirements.

### Language Policy at Martha Beyers Academy / Akademie

1. The language of teaching and learning at *Martha Beyers Academy* is English.
2. Learners seeking admission will be required to sit a language proficiency test in English to assess their readiness for academic instruction.
3. Parents are responsible for arranging and covering the cost of any bridging support necessary for their child to reach the English language proficiency required for academic success.
4. Afrikaans and isiZulu are offered as parallel additional languages from Grade 00 to Grade 6, with equal instructional time allocated to each.
5. Learners entering Grade 7 must select either isiZulu or Afrikaans as their additional language for Grade 12. Guidance from parents and teachers is strongly encouraged in making this decision.
6. Immigrant learners who arrive in South Africa from Grade 7 onwards qualify for "immigrant status" and are not required to take a second South African language as part of the curriculum.
7. However, parents of immigrant learners must arrange and fund tuition in an approved alternative language outside school hours. These learners are expected to attend Afrikaans/isiZulu lessons during the school day and to complete homework in their selected additional language.

### Learners Whose Home Language is Neither English Nor Afrikaans

*Martha Beyers Academy* welcomes applications from families whose home language is not English. However, it is important to clarify expectations upfront to ensure learners are set up for success.

### Foundation Phase (Grades 000 – 3)

1. Learners generally grasp English quickly due to the immersive learning environment.
2. Play-based learning, sport, videos, and classroom interaction naturally build English proficiency.
3. Daily support at home or from a tutor is essential, especially to assist with homework and reading development.
4. Some learners may be held back briefly to master foundational English skills, while others may be accelerated once competency is achieved.

5. Standard admission requirements, as outlined in the *Parents' Information Manual* and *Application Form*, must still be met.

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**Intermediate and Senior Phase (Grades 4 – 7)**

1. Grade 4 is considered the last opportunity for non-English home language learners to transition relatively easily into English instruction.
2. Learners in Grades 5 and 7 may be required to repeat a year based on English competency, but may also be fast-tracked once sufficient language skills are demonstrated.
3. Private tutoring may be necessary on a regular basis.
4. All admission protocols apply, as outlined in official school documents.

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**High School (Grades 8 – 12)**

1. An English competency test is required for all applicants. Only those with basic English skills will be considered for admission.
2. Learners with little to no English proficiency will not be admitted, as the Academy does not provide TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) instruction.
3. Grade 10 may be the final point of entry for non-English home language students. After this stage, the curriculum becomes too demanding without solid English skills.
4. Parents must arrange and fund private English tutoring (recommended three times per week) to help with homework and subject comprehension.
5. Admission is subject to full compliance with the school's application and admissions policies.

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**Important Notice**

Martha Beyers Academy( Extras with cost):

1. Offer extra English lessons to close language proficiency gaps.
2. Provide TEFL-specific classes or methods.
3. Offer one-on-one tuition in English or other subjects.
4. Take responsibility for learners who fall behind in English or any other subject.

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**Academic Expectations and Support**

Martha Beyers Academy does:

- Provide English-medium instruction aimed at the National Senior Certificate (NSC), enabling university entrance.
- Maintain a high academic standard, with advanced-level teaching and assessment.

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**Key Observations**

1. Studying in a language that is not one's mother tongue is a significant challenge.
2. To qualify for university in South Africa, learners must pass two languages, one of which must be at Home Language level.
3. All learners will take either English Home Language and IsiZulu or Afrikaans as First Additional Language.
4. Even highly motivated learners may take two years to become proficient enough to thrive in English-medium instruction.
5. The Academic Head of Martha Beyers Academy is available to discuss language requirements and academic expectations in greater detail.