

## Dainfern College Language Policy

### Introduction

Dainfern College is a complex school comprising both a Preparatory School and a High School. Situated as it is on the outskirts of Dainfern Estate in northern Johannesburg where a number of immigrant families buy homes, it has a comparatively large ex-pat community. Nevertheless, Dainfern College remains a South African school and is bound by the South African Schools Act, which requires it to offer specific South African languages in its curriculum.

There are international schools in the area that cater specifically for the needs of immigrant students, to which we sometimes refer applicants as it is not affordable for a school like Dainfern College to meet the offer required by certain immigrant families, nor is it our market niche.

### Language offer

In accordance with the Schools Act, all schools have to offer three South African languages in their curriculum. South African students need to pursue at least TWO of these to school-leaving level in order to meet the national school-leaving requirements.

At Dainfern College, English is the first language, as it is the language of instruction. In terms of the academic curriculum it is referred to as English Home Language. The two additional South African languages on offer, chosen from the list of 11 official languages, are Afrikaans and isiZulu. These are referred to as First Additional Home Languages.

Students start learning both Afrikaans and isiZulu in the Junior Preparatory phase (Grades 0-3). From Grade 4 students are only expected to study one additional language and therefore will choose between Afrikaans and isiZulu at the end of their Grade 3 year.

### Immigrant status

A student is classified as an immigrant if:

- S/he first enrolled at and entered a South African school in Grade 7 or a more senior grade; or
- S/he, having begun her/his education at a South African school, has attended school outside South Africa for two or more consecutive years after Grade 3, or its equivalent, and has subsequently returned to South Africa.

**NB:** Students who join Dainfern College in a grade below Grade 7 are not eligible for immigrant status. Initially they will attend language support lessons after school and have separate promotion requirements, depending on individual levels of achievement.

For students classified as immigrants the following applies at Dainfern College:

- Legally, in the Senior Phase (Grades 7, 8 and 9), **all immigrant students** need to pursue either Afrikaans or isiZulu as an additional language as part of the core subject offer for the phase. This means they have to attend classes in one or other of the additional languages although they do not need to pass the subject to attain promotion, and can give it up at the end of Grade 9.
- Subject choices for the FET Phase (Grades 10, 11 and 12) are made at the end of Grade 9, and immigrant students are **NOT** required to pursue a South African additional language for Matriculation exemption purposes. They will need to take three compulsory subjects (English, Life Orientation and Mathematics/Mathematical Literacy) and they may choose four other subjects from the subject offer at the College.
- Students must have their immigrant status confirmed and officially recognised by the IEB.

### **Languages taken in the FET stage**

Immigrant and non-immigrant students may offer a language not taught at Dainfern College as one of the four elective subjects in the FET phase, provided it is recognised by the Department of Education. Tuition for this would be for the parents' account.

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