

Language Policy

1349 IB World School , Poznań, Poland

Before framing the language policy for 1349 IB School in Poznań, Poland, it was essential for us to investigate the linguistic profile of the students preparing for the final exam within the IB programme.

The medium of instruction in our school is English, although in the case of almost 95% of students the language spoken at home is Polish. The English language is treated as a lingua franca and almost all classes and activities which take place in our school are carried out in that language.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

In 1349 IB School the language program aims at:

- 1/ enabling students to learn and use both native and foreign languages effectively and confidently
- 2/ developing all the language skills of students such as reading, listening, writing and speaking
- 3/ developing students' ability to communicate effectively and appropriately
- 4/ enabling students to use the language in various contexts and for different purposes
- 5/ developing students' ability to appreciate and understand literature
- 6/ encouraging students to explore languages as the vehicles to understand different perspectives of people belonging to different cultures.

Language Philosophy in our School

As there is a need to prepare our students for an increasingly intercultural and globalized world the language philosophy in 1349 IB School aims at developing the students' abilities to communicate effectively with people belonging to different cultures. We, teachers, are aware of the fact that improving the communicative competence is a lifelong process and plays a vital role in an intellectual development of every individual.

The skills acquired when learning one language (including the mother tongue) can be transferred to other languages taught in our school.

Language constitutes an expression of the tradition and culture of a certain country and is an important part of any student's identity.

The teaching process in our school encompasses the linguistic needs of our students.

We are aware of the fact that all teachers, regardless the subject they teach, are language teachers.

1349 IB School offers

Language A [1st language]- in 1349 IB school there are four basic options: Polish A (Higher Level and Standard Level groups) and English A (Higher Level and Standard Level groups). It comes as a little surprise that each year there are two Polish A groups, as a vast majority of our students are Polish, however it is worth underlining that our students' command of the English language is so advanced that we also offer English A courses. In addition to this, we successfully encourage those students whose mother tongue is not offered as a Group 1 subject to choose the self-taught option. In this case we supervise the administrative procedure, yet no formal instruction is given to the student. It is the student's own responsibility to adhere to the requirements that are set for a given language. Moreover, for those students who do not possess a working knowledge of Polish but need it to survive in the local environment, we offer Polish as a Foreign Language lessons (90 minutes a week) with a highly-qualified teacher who is trained in teaching Polish to non-Polish speakers. These lessons are adjusted to the needs of a particular student.

Language B [2nd language] – The courses that are offered in 1349 IB School are based on students' own preferences that are indicated before the beginning of the school year.

The most commonly chosen options in Group 2 are:

- English B HL**
- German B HL or SL**
- French B HL or SL**
- Spanish B Ab Initio, SL or HL**

In accordance with Language B Guide during each course we strive to address not only the basic issues that are connected with language acquisition but we also try to build a certain intercultural sensitivity when it comes to such global issues as poverty, inequality, racism or hatred. We also stress the importance of the IB Learner Profile, which is discussed and commented upon at the beginning of each school year. In practice, every activity during our Language B courses aims at a structured development of our students as knowledgeable and sensitive members of the international community.

There is a plethora of subjects during Language B courses that touch upon the issues tackled during CAS and TOK, which proves that Language B subjects at 1349 School are not to be treated merely as language courses but are interdisciplinary and help students see the Diploma Programme as a coherent whole.

Notwithstanding the cultural and linguistic diversity and 1349 School, English is a medium of instruction, and all subjects apart from foreign and native languages are taught in English. External assessment is only in English.

The school recognizes that language is fundamental to all learning processes. Students are being prepared to think in English, to analyse problems with clarity and awareness. They should be able to organize ideas and research in a structured, well-organized text and think critically about the surrounding world.

DETAILED LANGUAGE POLICY ARRANGEMENTS

- 1) for students whose native language is not Polish, there is a possibility of taking their mother tongue as language A in Group 1 (the self-taught version of the exam);
- 2) for students that are not proficient in English, there are remedial classes that can cover the areas which the student lacks in;
- 3) students who are not proficient in English can get support while writing their papers (Internal Assessment, Extended Essay, Written Assignment) from English teachers (there are individual student-teacher meetings);
- 4) students who are not proficient in Polish are entitled to up to two hours per week of instructions in Polish as a foreign language (there is a Polish teacher who is professionally trained in teaching Polish as a foreign language), such classes offer an insight into both the Polish language and culture;
- 5) the courses taught in Group 2 are designed in accordance with students' declarations, which are submitted before the beginning of a school year; apart from English B HL, there is a possibility of taking a course in Spanish (ab initio, SL, HL), German (ab initio, SL, HL), French (ab initio, SL, HL). The levels that are available and, to a great extent, the content of the courses are tailored to the needs of students.

Admission and assessment policies

The English language team requires all prospective candidates to complete a series of assessment tasks. The main objective is to determine the language proficiency of candidates.

1. English language proficiency test
2. Polish language and literature
3. Interview

The assessment is intended to check the candidate's ability to communicate effectively in English which is the language of instruction in our school. Its aim is also to find appropriate candidates who are going to work towards the IB learner profile requirements.

Professional development of teachers

All teachers in our school undergo a continuous training process to update their skills concerning the English language as well as the latest trends in teaching the particular subject.