

## LANGUAGE POLICY

### **2nd SLO philosophy of language: understanding and heritage**

Our school's language policy is based on two general values: understanding and heritage. By understanding, we mean language as a tool for comprehension of the world and for communication with people; by heritage, we mean language as a medium for building cultural identity.

We believe that these values are of the same importance, so we base our language policy on both of them. Our students need to understand the world around them and communicate effectively. They need to develop their languages in order to use them precisely and to affirm their identity which is rooted in their culture. To achieve the letter, students need to cultivate their mother tongue. Thus our program offers students an international environment and an individualized approach to learning languages.

### **Basic documents**

In preparing its language policy document, the 2nd SLO IBDP incorporates ideas contained in several documents such as:

- *Program standards and practices*

Particular attention will be given to teaching and learning, and collaborative planning.

- *Language and learning in the IB program*

Particularly section 3: group 1: studies in language and literature, group 2: language acquisition, and section 6: establishing a language policy steering committee, developing students' language profile.

- *Guidelines for developing the school language policy*

Promotion of the language of the host country

Support for mother tongue for all learners

Support for English B variety of languages

Staff professional development in English

- *Learning in a language other than mother tongue in the IB program*

Particular attention will be given to conditions for “learning prior background knowledge, to scaffold meaning, to extend language and affirm identity”<sup>1</sup>

- The Polish National Educational requirements

The Polish language has to be taught in the Pre-IBDP years to all Polish students.

The English language is an instrument in the education process of the IB.

### **The Polish National Educational System and the IBDP**

The Polish National Educational System stresses in-depth teaching and learning of Polish literature and grammar. Polish IBDP students are required to attend the Polish language course in the pre-IBDP years, because the Polish system requires a 4-year high school program. In the pre-IBDP years, students of other nationalities are required to attend an extracurricular course in the Polish language and culture. History of Poland and Geography of Poland are taught in Polish in the pre-IBDP years to fulfill the national curriculum requirements. All other subjects at the 2nd SLO High School are taught in English.

### **Rules for “Language A” choice**

Polish is Language A for the majority of students in the school. In justified cases, however, students will be allowed to take English as Language A, without taking Polish A at all. Such justified cases are the following:

- Bilingual students, i.e. from families where one parent’s main language is other than Polish.
- Students who have had at least 5 continuous years of formal education in a language other than Polish.

All students who are Polish citizens, and who choose no Polish Language A, are required to take part in regular Polish language classes of 2 hours per week in high school (3 year course) and 4 hours per week in high school (4 year course).

A student wishing to take the English instead of Polish course in Language A will need to submit a letter of request which will be considered by the three-member Language Committee, composed of a Polish teacher, an English teacher, and a representative of the school’s management staff. The decision about the process of teaching the Polish language is taken by a majority of votes. In addition, it is the commission's duty to consult the student's tutor.

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<sup>1</sup> *Learning in language other than mother tongue in IB programmes*, p. 6.

### **Rules for self-taught languages**

In order to maintain the development of all mother tongues, non-Polish students will be encouraged and supported in choosing self-taught mother-tongue courses.

When the school cannot provide a Language A course suitable either in the form of a self-study course, or regular classes, the school has the right not to admit the student.

### **Language admission rules**

In order to be admitted to the school, in addition to examinations in Polish and Math, a student must pass English language written and oral entrance examinations which are designed by English teachers of the school. The examination is set in order to assess students' language skills. The assessment criteria employed by the school comply with the criteria for assessment applied by the IBDP.

### **Other languages**

The school considers multiple language skills important to effective learning and recognizes them as crucial in developing multicultural awareness. The school strives to accommodate diverse language needs of all students. Apart from Polish and English, the school offers a diverse curriculum of language teaching: French, German and Spanish. The English B language course is offered only at a higher level.

### **Teachers**

All 2nd SLO IBDP teachers are aware that they are language teachers. They understand that language itself is an educational tool and this is why they promote students' awareness of their language in the education process.

Teachers also work on their language skills by participating in workshops and language courses.