

## **Language Policy**

### **International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP)**

#### **I. Purpose**

The objective of our language policy is to support the philosophy and mission of the International Baccalaureate (IB) by promoting an inclusive and culturally diverse learning environment that values and develops fluency in both French and English. Our goal is to enable students to become effective communicators, critical thinkers, and respectful members of a global community.

#### **II. Culture**

##### **A. Bilingualism**

Our school celebrates and promotes bilingualism by recognizing the equal importance and value of English and French. We recognize that language is a fundamental aspect of culture and that bilingualism promotes intercultural understanding, personal growth, and cognitive development.

##### **B. Multiculturalism**

We embrace the diversity of our students and strive to create a multicultural environment where students' linguistic and cultural backgrounds are respected and celebrated. We encourage students to share their languages and cultural experiences, fostering mutual respect and empathy.

##### **C. Language and identity**

We recognize that language is closely linked to personal and cultural identity and thus aim to offer students the opportunity to explore and reflect on their linguistic and cultural identity, helping them to develop a sense of belonging and pride in their language of origin.

### **III. Environment**

#### **A. Language instruction**

Our school offers a balanced and rigorous bilingual program in French and English, in accordance with the IB curriculum. We provide equal access to language learning opportunities for all students, regardless of their language level at the time of enrollment.

#### **B. Language allocation**

In order to support bilingualism, students receive instruction in French and English in different subjects. We strive to maintain a balanced distribution of languages throughout the program, ensuring that students have the opportunity to develop academic skills in both languages.

#### **C. Language support**

We provide additional language support to students who need it, particularly those learning French as an additional language. The entire educational community offers differentiated instruction, language support classes, and resources to help students develop their language skills. Parents are actively involved in their children's language progress.

#### **D. Language integration**

Our school promotes language integration in all aspects of school life. We encourage the use of French and English in classroom discussions, assignments, assessments, and extracurricular activities. This integration allows students to develop their language skills and self-confidence in real-life contexts.

#### **E. Intercultural understanding**

We promote intercultural understanding by incorporating various works, texts, and cultural experiences from French-speaking and English-speaking communities. We encourage students to engage critically with different perspectives, promoting open-mindedness, empathy, and respect for cultural diversity.

#### **F. Professional development**

Our staff members engage in ongoing professional development to improve their language skills, language teaching skills, and cultural competence. We offer opportunities for collaboration, reflection, and learning about best practices in bilingual education.

#### **G. Language of communication**

The administrative language of the school is French. For communication with students and parents of students in the PEI program, the teaching staff and administration will communicate orally and in writing in the language they consider most appropriate for clear communication. This may be French or English, depending on the context.

The language of communication during all extracurricular activities and educational outings is at the discretion of each individual. Ideally, the choice should be made with a view to including all participants as far as possible.

#### **IV. MYP Language Acquisition Classes**

##### **A. French as a Second Language (FSL) Classes**

New students who do not speak French attend French Second Language classes. The French as a Second Language teacher, in consultation with the teaching staff, the student, and the student's parents, determines when the student will be able to join the French Language and Literature class.

##### **B. Language B classes**

Students have the option of studying an additional language from among the following: German, Chinese, and Spanish.

#### **V. Revision of the Gymnase IB Middle Year Program Language Policy**

We regularly evaluate and reflect on our language policy to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the IB philosophy. This includes assessing students' language skills, monitoring policy implementation, seeking feedback from students, parents, and staff, and making adjustments as necessary to meet the evolving needs of our diverse learning community.

By implementing this language policy, we aim to create a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that values linguistic diversity, encourages bilingualism, and prepares students to become engaged global citizens who appreciate and contribute to different cultures and communities.

*Revised 28/08/2025*