

## Language Policy

### 1349 IB World School

revised & updated, September 2024

II Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Generałowej Zamoyskiej i Heleny Modrzejewskiej is an educational institution that hosts both the International Baccalaureate DP programme as 1349 IB World School, and the Polish high school curriculum, following regulations set by the Polish Ministry of Education.

The School Statute is the supreme document that defines the organization of the school, its legal status, the school's philosophy, policies, including the rights and responsibilities of the faculty and the students.

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:

- enabling students to learn and use both native and foreign languages effectively and confidently
- developing all the language skills of students such as reading, listening, writing and speaking
- developing students' ability to communicate effectively and appropriately



- enabling students to use the language in various contexts and for different purposes
- developing students' ability to appreciate and understand literature
- 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 offer:**

English is the language of instruction in classes following the IB DP Programme for all subjects except Language A and Languages B (if not English).

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), as our students' command of the English language is advanced.

In addition, 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), in accordance with the regulations of the Polish legal system in Art. 165 ust. 7 i 9 (Ustawa z dnia 14 grudnia 2016 r. Prawo oświatowe).

These classes are given by 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 Ab Initio, 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 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**

- for students whose native language is not Polish, there is the possibility to take their mother tongue as language A in Group 1 (the self-taught version of the exam);
- students with special educational needs that are medically documented can get support while writing their papers (Internal Assessment) from English teachers (there are individual student-teacher meetings);
- students who are not proficient in Polish are entitled to up to two hours per week of instruction in Polish as a foreign language (there is a member of the teaching staff who is professionally trained in teaching Polish as a foreign language), such classes offer an insight into both the Polish language and culture;
- 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 to take 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.

### **Additional support**

The school aims at supporting the school community in assisting language learning.

This is done by:

- providing extra Polish classes for non-native users of Polish, as specified by the Polish

educational law

- providing access to works of world literature both in translation and in its original languages in the school library
- encouraging students to participate in competitions, the so-called subject olympiads, in a variety of languages, literatures and cultures
- organizing school events promoting linguistic diversity
- participating in international exchanges and projects.

### **Admission and assessment policies**

As stated in Admission and assessment policies, 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.

All prospective candidates have to complete a series of assessment tasks. The main objective is to determine the language proficiency of candidates.

### **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.