

INTRODUCTION

AISS practices language policy that has been developed in line with IB expectations.

PURPOSE AND VALUE STATEMENT

Our Mission

To future-proof our children in a VUCA world by developing life skills needed to continuously learn, adapt, and thrive while recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet.

Our Vision

To be at the forefront of developing aspirational active lifelong learners.

Our School Ethos

- To develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people.
- To promote intercultural understanding, international-mindedness, and respect.
- To create a better and more peaceful world.

Core Values

- *Quality Education*: Providing the best education with reasonable fees.
- *Character Building*: Instilling good values and virtues in students.
- *Community and Citizenship*: Developing a sense of responsibility and contribution to society.
- *Teacher support*: Creating a positive environment for teachers to thrive.

WHY DO WE HAVE THIS POLICY?

Language helps students to think critically, learn and develop social skills and values, and to acquire knowledge.

Language is required for students as the vehicle to explore course content through the six IB Global Contexts, and to make connections that lead to becoming life-long learners who exhibit and grow in the IB Learner Profile traits.

This policy communicates the expectations of IB in fostering language growth as required in the context of the Middle Years Program and the school.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official languages in use in AISS are English and Malay. Being located in Malaysia, the school receives official directives from the Ministry of Education in Malay and therefore official correspondence with the ministry is primarily in Malay. All other official documents and resources are written and presented in English.

These documents and resources include, but are not limited to:

- School's official website page
- Reports, grade transcripts, statements, and official letters
- Policies and regulations
- Parent-School Agreement
- Notifications

The School nurtures international mindedness and appreciation for cultural diversity. A large percentage of students are bilingual, having acquired both English and a second language since birth. Since we believe that all languages have equal cultural value, for students and legal guardians who are not well-versed in English or Malay, the School shall provide additional support regarding translation of the documents.

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The language of instruction and assessment is English Language. As and when necessary, translation may be provided in other languages to help support students from non-English speaking backgrounds.

In the IB MYP subjects, students are taught using a variety of teaching platforms. This could include reading textbooks, interactive note taking, cooperative learning activities, projects, reflective responses and a host of digital learning formats. In each subject area, teachers require students to use English at the highest level on the IB written and oral communications exams and assessments.

For students who have a learning barrier connected to the language of instruction, AISS will provide additional support which may include, but is not limited to:

- Additional English Language lessons
- Access to teachers who are multilingual
- Student mentors who are multilingual

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

- Language teachers model proficient literacy behaviors.
- Language teachers and students work together to practice and develop reading, literacy, and communication skills.
- Students are expected to demonstrate reading, literacy, and communication skills both independently and in group settings. Within this structure, students work to meet grade-level standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening and media literacy.

The CAT4 is the deciding factor that determines if a student is enrolled in the Language & Literature (English) class with or without mandatory Academic Support. Most students score above average. Students who score below average are required to attend mandatory Academic Support for Language & Literature (English)

LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

- Language Acquisition encourages an appreciation for and understanding of other languages and cultures and provides a skill base for further language learning.
- The Language Acquisition offering in the MYP Years 1-3 is Malay and Mandarin is offered in MYP Years 1-5. Students learn to speak, listen, read, and write in a second language.

A placement test is the deciding factor that determines if a student is enrolled in either of the consecutive Phases offered by the School.

LANGUAGE OFFERED AS CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY (CCA)

AISS is committed to supporting first-language development, as well as the acquisition of additional languages through CCAs. Students sit for external examinations at the end of the course of study for the languages being taught below:

- German
- Malay
- Mandarin

COMMUNICATION PLAN

This language policy will be published on the school's website. Parents will be notified of this policy via the School2Me app. Homeroom teachers will discuss this policy with students at the start of each term to familiarize students with language policy in school. The school will constantly work on communicating the importance of language growth throughout the academic year through various means such as infographics, short informative videos, etc.

REVIEW OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY

The language policy will be reviewed at least once each academic year and revised accordingly if required.

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