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## **The Academy International School Language Policy**

The Academy International School is a student-centred learning environment that encourages students to discover a ‘Joy of Learning’. Part of this joy of learning comes from being able to celebrate our diversity and understand our place in the world as part of a wider international community. In order to foster and develop the Academy Learner Profile and IB Learner Profile attributes, all members of our school community acknowledge that it is good practice to support the learning of languages at all levels and understand the value of communication. Multilingualism is a fact, a right and a most valuable resource for learning (IBO PSPs Culture 4.2, 2022). To this end, all teachers recognise themselves as language teachers, with a responsibility to enhance the communication skills of all members of our school community, beyond what happens in the classroom.

At the Academy, we follow the National Curriculum of England, and offer Cambridge IGCSE’s in Year 11 and the IB Diploma in Years 12 – 13. These courses are taught in English and we have trained staff dedicated to the support of English language. We schedule lessons to support the development of mother tongue Spanish, Catalan, French and German and have established an excellent Modern Foreign Languages program for the language development of non- native speakers in those languages.

As an international school, we aim to develop awareness of international-mindedness and the role of each student as a global citizen.


We recognise that language is central to learning and our dedicated teachers are responsible for facilitating both written and oral communication.

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As an IB World School, we are committed to facilitating language development. The table below outlines some of the ways in which this is done.

The school ensures access to information on global issues and diverse perspectives.  
JSTOR, youtube, ref books etc, teacher training, charity, speakers, rotary club, career paths, acadazine,

The school supports professional development opportunities for our staff in the area e.g. completion of Category 3 Bilingual and multilingual teaching and learning (Cat.3).

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## Language in The Academy

English is our predominant language of instruction at the Academy. We also support the development of Spanish, Catalan, French and German. Spanish, French, German and English cultural enrichment activities take place across curriculum. For example, with local festivals, we learn songs, folk stories, and customs and speak with members of different communities. We have a link with a Spanish school in Palma and our sister school in Manacor. We have Spanish language lessons for teachers led by a member of our language department.


We are keen to utilise and develop our links with Mallorca and Mallorquin customs, traditions and local communities. We have strong links with the local community, where students are exposed to Spanish and Catalan and we offer excursions which encourage the development of both languages. English is also further encouraged through a host of interesting activities – including poetry week for bonfire night, poems in international competitions, through songs and children’s rhymes, storytelling and reading week. Reading in their own language at lunch time is encouraged. Christmas songs and shows in are performed in English, French, German and Spanish. We became a Talk for Writing School in 2021. The students from Reception to Year 7 ‘talk the text’ as we have been inspired by Pie Corbett’s programme for encouraging development of writing through first verbalising the text before putting it on paper.

The Academy offers a progressive curriculum, increasing in time, vocabulary and expectations as students move through school. Our introduction to languages in EYFS builds into further study of speaking and listening, vocabulary and grammar through interesting activities and fun games. German and French from KS2 follow the light bulb languages curriculum from the UK. Our extensive Extra Curricular activities offer a range of classes taught in Spanish; Guitar, Horse riding, Piano, skateboarding and Robotics. As well as fun clubs; Spanish fun club and French and German clubs at lunchtime.

Reading is encouraged in all languages throughout the Academy. Our onsite library stocks books in English, German, French and Spanish for students from Reception to Year 7. Our mobile library in the Senior School enables students to borrow books. They also are encouraged to bring in books from home and make recommendations for other students. We have a library section on our learning platform with online books, recommendations, and links to library sites. We offer a Book Borrowing Club and encourage parents to utilize the Oxford Owl system for parents who don’t speak English, to be able to listen to it with their children to support reading development. We have an online learning platform with immersive reading opportunities.

Our SEN department helps to support English language development. We are able to recommend further language development support outside school. Extra English support lessons are offered for new students and those students whose assessment level tests are a concern.

Communication sent from our Office is in both Spanish and English; however our administration staff is also able to communicate in Catalan, German and Russian.

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Where possible, we support the development of mother tongue, however when this is not possible we provide information to parents about support and extra classes in mother tongue at local college.

### **Good practice within the Academy classroom**

Dictionary and thesaurus work is built into language lessons in all languages. Student reports provide up to date progress reports on language development including writing, SPAG, reading and speaking and listening,

All teachers use media and resources to promote the development of language in their subject. IB Command words are clearly displayed and used in class regularly so that our students quickly become familiar. The IB Learner Profile embodied in class.

Assemblies provide the opportunity to combine drama and language and are very popular.

Teaching staff are trained in EAL for classroom teachers and have learnt strategies to support students learning in an additional language, such as to help encourage students to paraphrase, question each other with prompt questions and answer starters in all subjects. There are regular opportunities for Professional Development.

Most teachers teach in their mother tongue, however we have some multilingual staff who teach additional languages. Work is differentiated to extend the vocabulary for students who are learning the language of the curriculum different to their mother tongue. This is done through alternative words, explaining or translating. Students are encouraged to bring mother tongue dictionaries in to help with English/Spanish. Extra support from students in class is also encouraged at appropriate times. The Academy encourages a collaborative environment.

### **Language in Early Years Foundation Stage and Key stage 1**


At the Academy School, we offer all EYFS lessons in English. In addition to this, all EYFS students receive 10 minutes per day in Spanish to strengthen their language development. Often this is taught through music and song. English Vocabulary sessions are also offered for Spanish speaking students. Lunchtime Spanish Fun clubs support the development of Spanish through songs and play. Throughout EYFS, students are able to ask questions in Spanish and will be answered in English.

In Year 2 the students begin with Catalan lessons and social science taught in Catalan.

### **Language in Key Stage 2 and 3**

Students are offered three lessons of Spanish per week, three lessons of Catalan plus one lesson of social sciences in Catalan. There is support in extra Spanish lessons for students who are new to the language.

From Year 3, students have option of studying French or German. Each year throughout primary, students may change from one language to another so that they can fully experience both. In Year 6, students will make a final choice between French and German which they will then continue into secondary. In Year 3 – 6 French and

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German are taught as an option while Catalan is studied and at lunchtime for students who must do Catalan and would also like to do another language. From Year 7 to Year 9 students can study both Catalan and French or German during lesson time.

All Spanish first language lessons follow the Spanish National Curriculum and meet the requirements of the Spanish Ministry of Education. Second language Spanish lessons complement the first language lessons.

## Language in Secondary

### IGCSE

English, Spanish, French and German are offered at IGCSE level. These can be taken as first language or foreign language courses.

Some students have Catalan lessons to meet local requirements. Students with Spanish nationality need to study Catalan and social science in Catalan. Students who are not Spanish nationals have the option to take Catalan lessons.

In Key stage 4 (IGCSE) students are offered the option of studying English literature and English first language. Spanish Literature is built into the Spanish first language course.

Arrangements are also made for IGCSE in mother tongue, organising oral exams by native speakers in the local community. In the past we have had students take Italian, Dutch and Mandarin exams.


### IBDP

In addition to the above, we offer Language A and B in English and Spanish as part of the IB Diploma programme. We also offer Language B and ab initio in French and German and language B courses can be studied online via Pamoja. We have, in the past, accommodated the German A Literature self-taught, school supported SL course to further support mother-tongue learning. We provide online resources via JSTOR to support our onsite library so that students can access a wide range of materials.

We take our responsibilities as language teachers seriously. The placing of students on language courses is carefully carried out in conjunction with the DP language courses: overview and placement guidance (IBO 2020, updated 2021), and our language B specialist teachers, ensuring full inclusivity and equity of access to the IBDP.

The practices put in place ensure that there is full support for multilingualism and ensure that all students learn at least one language in addition to their home/personal language.

Parents and students are aware of the IB Language placement guidelines and understand that the role of the IBDP is to promote multiliteracies. Parents and students may be required to attend meetings regarding language

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placement in the initial stages of the programme so that course changes can be made to adhere to IB and school policy to maintain the integrity and equity of the programme.

Through the DP core there are opportunities for students to write their Extended Essays in their mother-tongue and students may choose to study the optional theme of language in ToK. The ToK core unit of knowledge and the knower explores and shares the importance of knowledge derived through languages and culture.

Many of our students will go on to achieve the bi-lingual diploma.

### **Ongoing Review of the Language Policy**

This policy will be formally reviewed **annually** by teaching and learning staff and revised as needed to adapt to changing best practices and the needs of our learning community.

This policy is available to all stakeholders in The Academy International School, and the school leadership welcomes comments and recommendations at any time.

This policy is prepared following the guidelines of the IB language policy and advice on multilingualism, the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for England and the LOMLOE requirements of the Spanish Department of Education.