



LANGUAGE POLICY

Philosophy

The acquisition of language is a dynamic process that permeates all learning and is fundamental in facilitating inquiry. As language is the key to all learning, every teacher at ISOP is a language teacher. The learning process simultaneously involves learning a language, learning about the language and learning through the language. These three aspects, operating together in a relevant context, provide the most supportive learning environment for language learners.

Language of instruction (Language Arts)

“International language is one which is used by people of different nations to communicate with one another” (Smith, 1976)

The International School of Poznań believes that language is at the center of learning. It is the basic tool of communication which crosses the boundaries of traditional disciplines and provides access to literature. Every nation's culture is carried by its language.

We, at the International School of Poznań, strongly believe that English, as an international language, is in itself the most effective means of communication and is fundamental to transdisciplinary learning. Language is the main element that fosters a life-long love of learning and is a means to recognize individual needs and abilities of the students. Therefore, English is the main language of instruction in our school.

English as a second language support

As English is the medium of instruction at ISOP, it receives maximum emphasis. One of its primary functions is to enable speakers to share with others their ideas and culture. Therefore, it is necessary for the students to be proficient in English in order to be able to obtain maximum benefit from the curriculum. However, for pupils admitted to ISOP for whom English is not their native language or whose knowledge of the language is not good enough to follow the curriculum, extra ESL instruction is provided within the school's capacity. It is our aim to enable the students to use the language confidently and effectively as a means of communication within the social, cultural and academic life of the school. We wish to develop in our students the specific communicative skills required for self-expression, a critical approach to learning, an understanding of the cultural patterns that affect the thinking, feeling and acting of societies in which the language is spoken (intercultural awareness). Students, who need help with English, receive additional classes – ESL programme. Students, on their side, are expected to make maximum effort to acquire a sufficient level of skills in English.

ESL programme is organized for students who have limited competence in English and experience difficulties in coping with mainstream lessons in English. These are small groups of students/individuals, so their individual needs are appropriately met. ESL is offered at the beginner level once a week during core English lessons. Students are integrated into their class once they have acquired a sufficient level of English to be able to function socially.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF POZNAŃ

Mother tongue support

First language maintenance and development is a vital part of the school language policy at ISOP. We strongly encourage parents to support and help their children develop a fluency of the mother tongue, as this is essential for developing and maintaining their cultural identity, which will in turn, aid the student to attain emotional stability. In order to support students in keeping up with their native languages, we offer support to three languages (Polish, German and Spanish) by providing language classes conducted by fully qualified teachers. Moreover, the school encourages parents' involvement in mother tongue support programme and gives the opportunity to organize the mother tongue classes (during timetabled Polish classes) provided by parents (Dutch, Danish, etc.). We believe developing language and literacy skills in the student's mother tongue facilitates the learning process of the second language, ensures continuous cognitive development, has the potential to increase intercultural awareness and understanding, enables students to remain in touch with and maintain esteem for the language, literature and culture of their home country. These lessons are scheduled right after the regular school timetable.

Additional languages

ISOP believes that language competencies are necessary for a well-educated student and a citizen of the global village. Therefore, we also enable students to study additional foreign language (German or Spanish) from Grade 2. The aims of learning an additional foreign language are to enable the students to use effectively the language learnt as a means of practical communication, offer insight into the life and civilizations of the communities where the language is spoken, encourage positive attitudes towards speakers of other languages and an appreciation for other cultures, as well as develop curiosity, interest and enjoyment in the foreign language.

Host language

The school provides a unique opportunity for students to learn Polish and learn about Poland from the native speakers. Once/or twice a week foreign students are provided with learning opportunities appropriate to their level of ability for learning Polish.