

LANGUAGES POLICY

1. Rationale:

1.1 Language is an integral part of our world. It is fundamental to learning and permeates our program. It underpins our functioning; it empowers our communication and enables us to make meaning of a diverse world. To function effectively in society children need to speak, listen, read, view and write with confidence, purpose and enjoyment in a wide range of contexts. Language is a tool that enables people to find information and to express their ideas and opinions.

2. Aims:

2.1 To help students learn language, learn about language and learn through language.

2.2 To support development in:

- the language of instruction, English
- the student's mother tongue languages
- the student's exposure to further languages
- the student's exposure to English when English is an additional language

2.3 To provide instruction which allows students to develop English according to their individual needs and abilities considering:

- speaking and listening
- written communication
- reading
- visual communication- viewing and presenting, digital learning, multimodal texts etc.

2.4 To provide an environment that is respectful of all mother tongue languages, where all cultures are valued and is inclusive for all students and community members.

2.5 To provide instruction in the language Italian and expose students to the Italian culture and heritage.

2.6 To support students, who have English as an additional language, in developing their English so they can engage with the school's programs.

3. Implementation

3.1 To support the development of English skills. The school will:

- Provide a minimum of 10 hours per normal week of instructional English (Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening) across the school.

- Have an English Committee that is responsible for the organisation, resources and annual budget for the English program across the school.
 - The English Committee liaises with the Librarian to ensure appropriate texts and resources (fiction, non-fiction) are available within the Library collection, both in digital and/or hard copy, as appropriate.
- 3.2 To encourage and support mother tongue development, the school will:
- aim to provide books in a range of languages
 - provide access to a number of online resources
 - celebrate international mindedness and diversity
 - encourage children to bring in a wide range of artefacts
 - encourage parents and community members to visit classrooms, read stories in different languages and share experiences
 - support families to access language classes- offer information, support applications
- 3.3 To support the development of languages other than English (Including Italian), refer to school policy “Language Other Than English”
- 3.4 To support English as an additional language, refer to school policy “English as an Additional Language”

4. Evaluation:

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle. Ratified by School Council on 15 November 2017.