



INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

A Heritage of Vision • A Legacy of Innovation



School Language Policy

2017-18

INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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Vision

– 'A Heritage of Vision, A Legacy of Innovation'

Mission Statement

The institution aims at uncompromising commitment towards holistic development and groom globally ethical citizens."

Philosophy

"IIS caters to the global need of today's youth, aims to engage learners in an active and creative learning journey, build knowledge and skills, promote and sustain high academic principles while retaining the strong value systems and ethics of the motherland and become responsible members of global community"

Introduction:

At IIS, we aspire

- to transform dreams and aspirations of the youth into reality by providing an international platform and harnessing latent talents to groom and also encourage them to take initiatives to face the global challenges.
- to promote international academic standards by underlining academics, as not merely restricted to gathering information but attaining knowledge.
- to provide an environment of holistic development and multifaceted growth of a student, through perspectives that emphasize on strong communication skills and thereby promoting an inter-cultural awareness.
- to encourage the students to appreciate the natural and artistic realms of life.
- to provide a learning environment in which students and the faculty are driven by the spirit of inquiry in their quest for knowledge.
- We, at India International School, Jaipur strongly believe in Indian roots and global vision, as our mission statement is aligned with the mission statement and the learner's profile of the IBO.



- While English is the language of instruction, the language policy allows students to inquire in the mother tongue and aspire to become multilingual.
The school is committed to provide as much diversity of language learning as possible.

- The language policy recognizes the transfer of cognitive skills from the mother tongue to English and vice versa and the acquisition of additional languages. This process encourages the acquisition of higher order thinking skills and development of multiple perspectives. The policy also recognizes the importance of all teachers' differentiated instruction for students at different levels of language acquisition.

Objective:

Every teacher at India International School acts as a language teacher and recognizes the importance of language as a means of communication. It is the medium to express one's opinion and thoughts, to connect oneself to the external world through knowing, learning, thinking, reflecting and expression. Through language we appreciate the importance of culture, diversity and sensitivity towards others, which in turn enhances one's personal growth and development, making the learner a deep rooted culturally strong globalized individual.

At IIS, the language policy has been designed bearing the needs of the local community giving it's due to the mother tongue as well as giving importance to the National tongue. Due weightage is also given to the main medium of instruction i.e. English and other foreign languages which our students are very enthusiastic to learn. This blend of diversified culture of languages and their interconnection adds value to the school's linguistic background.

The Language Department Heads bear a rich experience and knowledge of the languages in which they specialise. This team is highly qualified, holds specialized degrees and certifications. They are proficient in multiple languages along with their



native languages and their medium of instruction. IIS believes in giving its due respect to the classical and national language, juxtaposed with our aspiration to expose and groom our students in the internationally acclaimed languages spoken worldwide. Introduction of some more foreign languages to our curriculum in the later stages is in store.

Language Studied at Various Levels under the National Board

The Language Policy at IIS encourages multilingualism and gives every student an opportunity to hone this proficiency. English, of course, is the medium of instruction. The languages offered at various levels are:

- At **Pre-primary and primary level**, students are offered Hindi and English to groom their language learning skills.
- At **Middle level**, IIS has a three language policy. Here, English and Hindi are compulsory languages and a student opts between optional Classical language (Sanskrit) **or** a foreign language (Japanese or French).
- At **Secondary level**, IIS has a **two** language policy. Here **English** is compulsory. In the second language the student has a choice of one from **Hindi/ Sanskrit/ French. Japanese is studied as an additional language.** (*IIS catered to Mandarin and German as well, but lately discontinued, Mandarin because of **diplomatic** issues and German because, of late we had no takers*).
- At **Senior Secondary level**, students have compulsory English Language. From 2017, IIS has reinitiated French as an optional subject to enhance its multi-lingual culture.

Language Studied under the International Board

CPP: English and Hindi are compulsory languages. IIS plans to introduce French as



the foreign language for class 4-5 from session 2018 onwards. **IGCSE:** English first language (Code 0500), English Literature (Code 0486), Hindi as the second language (Code 0549), and French foreign language (Code 0520).

IBDP: In Group 1, IIS offers English A: Literature at SL/HL, Hindi A: Literature at SL/HL

In Group 2, IIS offers English B at SL/HL, French Ab Initio, SL and HL. (Hindi HL/SL will be need based.)

Though English language is the medium of instruction at IIS, assuming that the proficiency level of students at entry level might vary, the school intends to provide help to such students to improve their competency in languages. Students are supported in all possible ways through differentiated learning process to acquire English language for their scholastic purposes and interface in the school where English is the operational language. During the implementation of IB Diploma Program, the school strongly promotes cultural exposures through these languages focusing on Culture, Traditions, Heritage and Literature.

The school also supports the World Literature element identifying it as a very important part of education to maintain the global standards by manifesting its importance in relating it to the Theory of Knowledge and reminding students of the emphasis laid on it by the IBO.

National / Native Language Support

Keeping in mind the diverse linguistic background of the nation, the school gives due importance to the intricacies and definition of the "mother tongue" as illustrated by IBO, that it is 'the language learnt first', the language identified as "native", 'the language known best', 'the language used most.' The term 'native language' used in this policy defines the same.



The school largely focuses on supporting the 'National language' – Hindi, and at the same time, emphasizes on promoting modern languages too. Since Hindi is the national language of the host country and is widely spoken and understood across the country, we encourage its use by offering it right from primary level up to Secondary and at IBDP it is up to the Senior Secondary level.

The hindi language and its linked rich heritage and culture is showcased throughout the year where students contribute to their cultural and linguistic experiences by participating enthusiastically in events held at the school. One of the most important events to mention with regards to the native language is the **Multi-Lingual Week** observed at the school. This is a series of creativity, displayed by students in terms of literary skills, debates, poetry recitation, handwriting competition, declamation, extempore, workshops, quizzes, and traditional dance performances. The importance of national language is demonstrated in various cultural forms and exposure to the rich literature and writings of great authors.

Traditional Language Support

The term 'traditional language' refers to Sanskrit language which is one of the ancient and classical languages of the host country. At IIS, students are introduced to the traditional Sanskrit Language which has been the source of all languages and literature in the world.

Students of the school understand that Sanskrit is a "language of consciousness" a magnificent inheritance that influences the lives of our people because it opens the door to India's rich Vedic literature. Sanskrit is not restricted to spirituality & religion, though it encompasses a vast literature of many genres. This language is given ample representation in other cultural events of the school in the form of chanting mantras, shloka recitation, and this is further demonstrated by exposing students to the rich literature and writings of great authors.



The school library supports these languages by providing a substantial collection of books and reference material in the library accessed by students. The school will further add up to the original works and their respective translations. Other Indian languages, their customs and traditions are also characterized through the cultural events of the school and the resources available in the school.

Foreign Languages Support

At IIS, we strongly believe in keeping the Indian roots intact yet having a global vision. We groom students to be internationally minded, be aware of the role of languages in relation to other areas of knowledge, understand the relationship between languages and culture embarking upon their creativity and intellectual stimulation. This belief is backed by the International Cultural events hosted by the school celebrating the cultural diversities by conducting Students' Youth Exchange Programmes, ISA workshops, conferences, to name a few. To enhance the language skills, IIS has a language lab.

The foreign languages offered at IIS are French, Japanese, & German (presently no takers for German). At the IB Diploma Programme level, the school plans to offer the following languages in future for the students to choose from:

- ***Spanish Ab Initio***
- ***Japanese Ab Initio***

Support for Medium of Instruction and Learning of Language – English

The language proficiency levels of students coming from various boards are likely to vary. At IIS we strongly believe that the entire academic wing contributes to filling the linguistic gap of students who migrate from one Board to the other. The English mentors assess their vocabulary, writing and reading skills. Thereafter, the school extends extra help for such students to improve their proficiency in the language.



Besides, conducting interactive sessions and orientation within the school, the department also conducts workshops, presentations, informal sessions, classroom reading and training programs for such students. They are also assessed at intervals to monitor their improvement, to ensure they are consistently at par with the rest of the students so that they can be assimilated in the IB Diploma Programme.

The English Department also caters to assisting students by conducting remedial classes that are fixed, need based to raise the proficiency level of the students wherever required to bring them to a competitive level at par with the other students in the school. This also helps the learner acquire English language skills required for their social and academic life in the school. Besides, it helps them integrate smoothly into the mainstream program.

Support for Students Transferred from Different Examination Boards

At IIS, students are also admitted from boards like, RBSE-Rajasthan Board for Secondary Education, ICSE-The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination.

At IIS, the IB faculty and other academic team strongly believe that they are instrumental in bridging the linguistic gap that students would experience while being transferred from one examination board to another.

IIS ensure that the language department will study and improve the language skills, basic linguistic competence and key vocabulary required by students to understand the curriculum. Students will be encouraged to make group presentations and actively participate in the class room discussions, read and write widely in the subject as per the demand of the subject at examining levels.



The 2017 action plan suggested Language Lab to be attached to library.

Upgrading from 2018

The Library

The existing Library of IIS is well equipped with all required resources in forms of books and reference material. However, in order to provide access to various reference books, study material like Journals, translations, audio visual equipment, online resources, we have developed smart e-classes that will be widely resourceful for students while they progress at different levels pursuing their Diploma programme. This resource centre is also well equipped to the standards, where the teachers also avail the resources to enhance their knowledge.

Working towards this, the language department started a campaign three years back by observing 1 hour reading time for the entire school on the last Friday of every month. There is pin drop silence on the entire campus. This is followed very religiously. To boost the morale of students, the Director awarded story books to the three best readers of every section from CCP and CBSE grade 1 a,b,c,d to the 12 standard. Students also subscribe for different newspapers and magazines, in addition to the variety of subscription of newspapers already available in the library.

The library at IIS has an extensive collection of books for languages including their translations. This is managed by taking stock of the existing resources and further adding up of teaching and learning resources from time to time.

The school also has access to the ICG library, our sister concern to refer to the resource material for secondary reading that includes research papers, journals etc as and when required.

The Language Policy Steering Committee



The revised Language Policy Steering Committee at IIS, consists of the following members:

- Dr. Ashok Gupta, Director & Head of the School
- Ms. Mala Agnihotri, Principal & IBDP, CIE Coordinator
- Ms. Seema Sharma, CAS Coordinator
- Ms. Prabhjeet Khanna, Examination Officer
- Mr. Manish Kumar Sharma, Academic Head
- Ms. Mukta Khandelwal, Academic Head
- Ms. Savita Bhargava, Head of Indian Language Department
- Dr. Anju Chandra, HOD English
- Mr. Manish Agarwal, HOD French
- Ms. Harshita Kumar, Library Science Teacher

It is the responsibility of the committee to oversee the procedures needed to develop the language policy of the school, communicate the same to all stakeholders and ensure that the process of compilation and review is collaborative and involving all, using a range of strategies.