



Language Policy

Diploma Programme

High School with Bilingual Units in Boguchwala

## The mission statement of the school

The aim of the school is the comprehensive education of students preparing them for life in the modern world. The school allows its students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to obtain final national Matura Exams and allows graduates to make an informed choice of further education or occupation. It provides the right to development regardless of nationality, religion, social status, wealth, sex, health conditions or other features that might imply inequality. The school's mission is to educate students taking into consideration the principles of solidarity, democracy, tolerance, justice. School, both in teaching and education, as a basis adopts universal principles of ethics, develops in young people a sense of responsibility, love for the motherland and respect for Polish cultural heritage, while opening up to the values of other cultures of Europe and the world. It prepares young people for fulfilling family and civic duties based on the principles of solidarity, democracy, tolerance, justice, and freedom. It provides cultivating the traditions and culture of your region.

## Language philosophy

One of the school's priorities is the effective teaching of foreign languages. We have adopted the model of teaching the native language alongside two foreign languages (English and Spanish). Special care is taken as far as learning Polish and English is concerned, as we believe that good knowledge of languages is the basis of the whole teaching process and proper, knowledge-based functioning in the society. Students have the opportunities to effectively and precisely learn and use both their native language and foreign languages. Teachers use modern teaching methods, strategies and styles to ensure the students' proper linguistic development. Teachers offer students support in learning languages through access to the database of books and textbooks, extra classes and consultations with language teachers, classes organised in theatres, art galleries or museums.

Teachers' mission is to build awareness among students that learning languages influence communication, their creativity and activity in culture. What is more, students can learn the interpretation of different texts and methods of lifelong learning.

Emphasis is also put on developing the abilities of critical thinking, and social skills, as well as personal management and research abilities. Teachers individualize the teaching process and adjust it to different student learning styles. Diploma Programme teaching concentrates on effective group work and teamwork, it takes into account the various needs that students can have.

## IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programs is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

IB learners strive to be:

**Inquirers** - They develop their natural curiosity. They acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and show independence in learning. They actively enjoy learning and this love of learning will be sustained throughout their lives.

**Knowledgeable** - They explore concepts, ideas, and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, they acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

**Thinkers** - They exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.

**Communicators** - They understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. They work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.

**Principled** - They act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice, and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups, and communities. They take responsibility for their own actions and the consequences that accompany them.

**Open-minded** - They understand and appreciate their own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values, and traditions of other individuals and communities. They are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience.

**Caring** - They show empathy, compassion, and respect towards the needs and feelings of others. They have a personal commitment to service and act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment

**Risk-takers** - They approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. They are brave and articulate in defending their beliefs.

**Balanced** - They understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.

**Reflective** -They give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.

## PRACTICES RELATED TO TEACHING LANGUAGES

The document provides a framework for language teaching and learning in High School with Bilingual Units in Boguchwala. It sets out school philosophy about language and documents the practices and procedures of language teaching and learning.

### Language of instruction

Polish (as a language A) is the main language of instruction in classes following the National Programme and in many classes teaching is bilingual - in Polish and English.

Teaching in bilingual classes within the national curriculum must comply with other regulations (School Statute, § 5 and regulations of the Ministry of Education concerning bilingual education).

### IB Diploma Classes

English (as a language A) is the language of instruction in classes following the IB DP Programme for all subjects except Polish classes and Spanish classes.

### Mother Tongue

Learning the mother tongue is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all grades. For the majority of the students, Polish is their native language. For foreign students, mother language is English (HL - level) or another language. In case of circumstances of attending foreign students' at the school, it is considering the possibility of teaching them Polish. For the school community, the Polish language is a part of the curriculum program and it does not require any additional effort from parents, because school takes all responsibility for teaching the mother language.

For students who are not proficient in the language of instruction (English), the school offers support e.g. additional classes, consultations with teachers and literature for language learning available in the school library.

Our school tries to help parents to strengthen their children's mother tongue by teaching the mother language by the national curriculum. The study of the language A (Polish) is based on the reading and studying of literature and language. The number of teaching hours a week varies depending on the class profile, level, and grade. The minimum is four hours a week. The mother tongue is an obligatory component of the final national Matura Exams.

Support for parents and their children, when the Polish language isn't their mother language is:

- Educating parents about the importance of mother tongue, sharing with parents the benefits of maintaining one's mother tongue through the school's website, school newsletter and information events.

- Encouraging community members to offer after school clubs with a focus on maintaining and developing mother tongues.
- Providing access to a growing range of resources to support mother tongues.
- Encouraging families to speak and read in their mother tongues at home.
- Holding school events that showcase a variety of languages represented in the school community.
- Encouraging parents to find materials in the home language that are related to what the child is learning at school (parents can talk with their child about the concepts and vocabulary they are learning at school). They will often be able to have a deeper discussion of the issue than their child can sustain in English at school.
- encouraging parents to organize playdates, language lessons and vacation trips that will allow the child to practice their mother tongue.

## IB Diploma Classes

Every student takes a compulsory first language (Language A) course in his or her most competent language. This is normally the language of the environment to which the student has been exposed from an early age or for an extended period.

Polish is offered as a Language A regularly at both Higher and Standard Levels. Polish literature classes are taught 4 hours a week at SL and 6 hours a week at HL.

## Second Language Study

Since language teaching is one of the priorities of the school, apart from the mother tongue, each student learns English and another foreign language as part of the school curriculum. A student may study a second Language B (English) only at the Higher Level. This is for students whose English is normally their best language or communicate effectively in English.

- English:

All classes follow an extended program (HL level) of teaching English

- students with good language skills are taught English at an advanced level.

Our goal is for all students to become proficient in English by the end of their education at school. Thus, the school offers regular support to students whose English language skills are not strong enough to allow them to fully participate and/or develop their skills at the same pace with the class. These students may join additional lessons to catch up with their classwork.

To ensure the best conditions for language learning and performance, during language classes students are divided into groups corresponding to their language level.

- Other foreign languages:

Following the requirements of the IB Diploma Programme, all students study at least one language other than their mother tongue. The school offer second language Spanish - ab initio. This offer is directed for students who want to study a new language and they are beginners. The courses are available at SL only and are open to students with minimal or no knowledge of the language.

## Cooperation with school library

Modern library has a variety of functions. Apart from its traditional role of collecting, classifying and lending books, it should also be a multimedia centre helping teachers and students to implement educational programs, help students search for information in various sources, use information technology effectively as well as develop students' personal interests and passions.

Therefore the library in the school will:

- cooperate with the library of the local university, which subscribes foreign-language newspapers and magazines and which are accessed by language teachers of school,
- give advice on how to search for information and materials that will be used in the classroom,
- discuss with teachers the purchase of course books and teaching materials,
- collect materials in foreign languages, acquire new books in English and will stock a small section of rare languages for Language A Literature self-taught students if the need arises,
- collect, store and lend teaching materials prepared by teachers.

## Admissions

### IB Diploma Classes

As a part of the application process candidates take a language competence entrance in English to determine their current language level.

## Additional support

The school aims at supporting the school community in assisting language learning. This is done by:

- providing extra classes for students to develop their skills or interests
- providing access to literature in a variety of languages in the school library

- participating in competitions related to a variety of languages, literature, and cultures
- organizing events promoting different languages
- participating in international exchanges and projects.

Since language is the basic tool in teaching, the school aims at promoting multilingual teaching and developing language skills among the staff (administrators, teachers, librarians and other school staff). This is done by:

- promoting bilingual teaching in classes
- teacher participation in international workshops and exchanges
- organizing and participating in international projects
- enabling teachers and school staff to develop their foreign language skills in language courses
- teachers who are not native speakers can create vocabulary/keywords dictionary to their subject, which will be a support for them to prepare for each lesson.

## Language Policy Review

This IB Diploma Language Policy is reviewed by IB DP teachers and school administration regularly (once a year). As new ideas are developed, the research will be conducted comprising other members of the school community and the result of the research will be gathered and included in the language policy document. Language school policy is informed to all members of staff, school community and parents. They are also informed about how they may contribute to the development of the document.

It is the responsibility of the IB Diploma Program Coordinator to ensure the success of the Language Policy review.

## Communication of school Language Policy

The High School with Bilingual Units in Boguchwala Language policy is available through many of the communication channels utilized within the school community, such as school website, school library, school presentations during Open Days, visit to primary schools and email communication.

## Compliance with other school documents

Language school policy is linked to other school documents:

- Admissions policy,
- Assessment policy,
- Special educational needs policy.

## References

- *Statut Liceum Ogólnokształcącego z Oddziałami Dwujęzycznymi w Boguchwale*, updated September 2019.
- <http://www.liceum.boguchwala.pl/?p=10845>
- *Ustawa Prawo oświatowe* (Dziennik Ustaw z 2018 poz. 59), 14th December 2016, <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20170000059/U/D20170059Lj.pdf>
- *Guidelines for developing a school language policy*, <http://www.sjp2.us/images/pdf/ib/Guidelines-for-Developing-a-School-Language-Policy.pdf>