

Monnet International School - Language Policy

1. School language philosophy

The mission of the Monnet International School is “The Joy of Learning – we ensure friendly, warm and creative atmosphere encouraging learning and individual development”.

We strive to prepare our students to meet the complex demands of the multicultural contemporary world and to be well-adapted to cultural and linguistic diversity.

Monnet International School students come from different cultural, linguistic and social backgrounds. We help them to learn and experience success in a second language. Our program provides a foundation for the lifelong process of language acquisition:

- fosters respect for other cultures,
- prepares students to become productive members of a global society,
- allows students to communicate easily with people from different countries,
- promotes awareness of one’s own language and culture,
- promotes awareness of different languages and cultures.

2. School language profile

IB DP students at Monnet International School speak many different languages. Most students speak Polish as their first language but we have also had students whose first language is English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Italian, Russian, Arabic, Ukrainian, German, Czech, Greek, Turkish or Mongolian.

Students may speak their first language outside of class unless they are in a group of students where some do not understand the language. We never use language to exclude others and we therefore encourage students to speak English also outside of the classroom.

The language of instruction is English with the exception of other language classes where instruction is delivered in the target language.

All teachers are responsible for language development of students.

The working language in the IB DP is English, both for teachers and students. That means that written and oral information from the school staff to students is usually in English.

3. Languages offered

Language A:

Monnet International School offers:

- English A Language and Literature on Standard or Higher Level,
- Polish A Literature on Standard or Higher Level.

Language B:

Monnet International School offers:

- English B on Standard or Higher Level,
- French ab initio on Standard Level,
- French B on Standard or Higher Level
- German ab initio on Standard Level,
- German B on Standard or Higher Level
- Spanish ab initio on Standard Level
- Spanish B on Standard Level

4. Support for mother tongues

Monnet International School encourages students to continue to use their mother tongue language skills as it allows them to enhance their personal identity, highlights their cultural heritage, and increases their overall ability to learn. Therefore, Monnet International School provides students with a language teacher allocated to the Language A Literature – school supported self-taught course.

The school encourages all Polish students to experience Polish language and culture.

5. Strategies to support all teachers in their contribution to the language development of students

Monnet International School regularly evaluates the language needs of students who attend the DP in the school. Since the School is an international institution various language needs have to be accommodated. As all teachers are responsible for language development of students they are given appropriate support.

The school provides a variety of sources collected and constantly updated by the school librarians such as InThinking subscriptions, various IB textbooks as well as other online resources and databases which are made available to subject teachers.

Books in our school library are available in English, Polish, French, German and Spanish. We continue to buy books in different languages. Resources are also available at British Council, Institut Francais, Goethe-Institut and Insituto Cervantes in Warsaw.

6. Support for students who are not proficient in the language of instruction

The School prepares students for the IB DP by offering pre-DP classes during which students develop their linguistic abilities across all subjects. International students whose language skills are particularly in need of improvement are provided with extra English lessons which enable them to prepare for the DP.

The library also plays an important role in providing students with additional materials to facilitate the understanding of sources in the language of instruction throughout the programme. Where appropriate teachers address the issues resulting from the lack of students' proficiency by providing vocabulary logs to facilitate understanding.

7. Learning the host country language and culture

Monnet International School organizes various events during which Polish and international students familiarize themselves with the culture and traditions of the country and region they live in, as well as enhance their linguistic abilities.

Such events encompass the annual integration camps (in Brok and Wilga) during which students prepare various artistic and academic activities, thematic trips connected with the culture and traditions of a given region (Gdynia, Kraków), theatre performances as part of the school theatre, discovering of local history and culture, getting to know the work of local poets based in Warsaw (project: Literary Map of Warsaw), and being exposed to various issues and subjects due to regular cultural meetings organized at school (e.g. Spotkania Bardzo Coolturałne).

Moreover, the school holds various celebrations connected to significant historic or cultural events e.g. Patriotic Week for which students prepare numerous activities such as interviews with renowned Poles or projects about the patrons of streets in Mokotów district. They discover history and culture on both local and global levels.

8. Learning the languages and cultures of international students

International students share information about their languages and cultures during subject lessons. International day is an annual event during which international students have a chance to present their languages and cultures.

9. Policy Review Process

This policy is a living document. It is an ongoing process that will be systematically reviewed, evaluated and modified as needed by the DP staff, coordinators and administration. Subsequent revisions will be communicated to all staff, students and parents.

The following publications have been used in the construction of this document:

1. International Baccalaureate Organization, From principles into practice—“Language options and language support” section in the “Language learning” chapter.
2. International Baccalaureate Organization, Guidelines for developing a school language Policy.
3. International Baccalaureate Organization, Language and learning in IB programmes.
4. International Baccalaureate Organization, Learning in a language other than mother tongue in IB programmes.

Updated in November 2019