



# LANGUAGE POLICY

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## **INTRODUCTION**

As an international school representing almost 50 different nationalities, we positively promote and embed English language development into students' living and learning experiences. We seek opportunities to support students' academic, social and emotional literacy and prioritise this as an essential element of their wellbeing, progression and achievement.

At Worthgate School, all teachers are teachers of English and are committed to identifying and providing opportunities to promote and develop the student's language confidence and competence. At Worthgate School, all students learn English, either as an academic subject as part of their Programme of Study (e.g. GCSE, IBDP) or to support their progression to university (i.e. to attain an appropriate IELTS or Cambridge Suite qualification).

## **IN THE CLASSROOM**

- We are patient with our instruction, but encourage students to grasp challenges and to take risks with their learning
- We use language data to plan lessons which are inclusive for all learners
- We take advantage of opportunities to develop subject literacy to improve understanding and are mindful of potential misconceptions
- We define key terms and technical vocabulary, and check for application and understanding
- We expect students to contribute verbally in lessons and we will recast language to encourage development
- We expect students to listen carefully and respond effectively to questions from us and each other
- We expect students to read for the subject regularly
- We provide resources to scaffold subject literacy, e.g. glossaries, writing frames, model answers.

## **ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

Students are encouraged to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or equivalent depending on their Programme of Study (IBDP students have the EE and TOK as an equivalent opportunity). An EPQ provides academic stretch and challenge in addition to evidencing a genuine interest in a specific area via independent research skills. Completing an EPQ helps students develop a number of different skills, including excellent organisational skills and time-management skills.

The librarian (Learning Resource Coordinator) is a key disseminator of language opportunities and regularly offers study skills workshops for students.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

All staff involved in caring for our students require professional development regarding supporting students with English literacy. The English department work with other departments and staff, to support them driving competent English literacy within different subject disciplines and contexts. This support may be in the form of sharing teaching resources or observing lessons to offer improvements or co-teaching lessons and/or support groups.

## **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM LANGUAGE POLICY**

The IB is committed to supporting multilingualism as a fundamental part of increasing intercultural understanding and international-mindedness and is equally committed to extending access to an IB education for students from a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. All students will study English, but also another language, either their native language or usually Spanish or French Ab Initio.

If a student needs to study their mother tongue, which is not offered at Worthgate School, we will recommend external, private tuition - we will commit to identifying a tutor, and schedule lessons during the regular school day. N.B. the parent(s) will commit to paying the tutor for his/her services.

## **INTERNATIONAL MINDEDNESS**

Language is the means of making sense of the world around us and our place within it. Since most of our students are EAL students, multilingualism is encouraged and celebrated, and this can be seen in action via (i) displays around the school, illustrating different languages and cultures; (ii) International Days; (iii) Chinese New Year; (iv) Christmas Cathedral Carol Service; (v) international cuisine events in the Boarding residences; (v) the school's Language Festival.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

Student reports will be disseminated every half-term, which will include Current Grade, Teacher Predicted Grade, Attitude to Learning (AtL) plus termly targets. Reports are written in English and will be sent to the parents as well as agents, who will act as translators for those parents with weaker English language. There will be Parent Consultation Days scheduled within the academic year to provide opportunities for parents and agents to meet with teachers to discuss student progress. Parents also receive the weekly newsletter, so they can feel part of the school community and have a greater appreciation of their child's involvements.

## ADMISSIONS

Prior to students joining Worthgate School, they will have to evidence that they have the potential to succeed in their academic studies through the medium of English. Hence students need will need to have the following levels:

<b>Programme of Study</b>	<b>Language Requirements* (IELTs)</b>
PRE-GCSE	3.5+
GCSE	4.0+
PRE-Programme	4.0+
A-level	5.0+
University Foundation Programme	4.5+
IBDP	5.5+

\*January-start students are expected to have a 0.5+ uplift vs. the levels described above

For the IBDP, students will be assessed further, upon arrival, to determine whether they will be able to pursue the Language A English course or whether Language B is more suitable.

## LANGUAGE RESOURCES

Our library has both print and digital (including audio) materials, reflecting the diversity of languages present at Worthgate School. Furthermore, all staff and students liaise with the library to offer feedback and suggestions for new resources and future events.