



LANGUAGE POLICY

Previous Date of Policy	September 2024
Reviewer(s)	Assistant Principal Academic
Approved by	Principal September 2025
Review by Date	January 2027

Roles & Responsibilities:

Principal	Dr Ian Gross
Assistant Principal Academic	Ms Rebecca Champion
Librarian	Ms Julie Russell

Contents

Introduction	3
In the Classroom	3
Academic Opportunities	3
Professional Development	4
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Language Policy.....	4
International Mindedness.....	4
Communication with Parents	4
Admissions	5
Language Resources.....	5
Related Policies	5

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 The 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 The Worthgate School, all international 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, although we 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 several different skills, including excellent organisational skills and time-management skills.

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development tailored to staff needs is essential in supporting students with English literacy. Training opportunities are sourced from a range of professional platforms and complemented by peer observation to ensure relevance and impact. The English department collaborates with colleagues across subjects to embed effective literacy practices within different disciplinary contexts. This may include sharing targeted teaching resources, engaging in lesson observations to provide constructive feedback, co-teaching, or supporting small groups to strengthen literacy provision across the curriculum.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAMME 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 Ab Initio or French Ab Initio.

If a student needs to study their mother tongue, which is not offered at The 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 by which we make sense of the world around us and our place within it. Since the majority of our students are EAL learners, multilingualism is both encouraged and celebrated. This is reflected in a variety of ways, including:

- (i) displays around the school showcasing different languages and cultures;
- (ii) the promotion and celebration of International Days;
- (iii) Chinese New Year festivities;
- (iv) the Christmas Cathedral Carol Service;
- (v) international cuisine events in the Boarding residences;
- (vi) the school's annual Language Festival.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Student reports will be disseminated every half-term, to include Assessment %, Average % across cohort, Current grade, Teacher Predicted Grade, Minimum Target Grade, Attitude toward Learning, Actual attendance (%) to lessons, plus termly targets. Reports are written in English and are uploaded to the Student and Parent Portals. 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 The 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:

Programme of Study	Language Requirements* (IELTs)
Pre-GCSE	3.5+
GCSE	3.5+
Pre-A Level	4.0+
A-level	4.5+
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 The Worthgate School. Furthermore, all staff and students liaise with the Librarian to offer feedback and suggestions for new resources.

RELATED POLICIES

Curriculum