



RIGA STATE GYMNASIUM No.1

Language policy

Purpose of the policy

- To set out practices for uses of language in interactions with students, staff and other stakeholders and inform of rights and responsibilities
- To foster an inclusive and diverse learning environment which recognizes that everyone is entitled to their own culture and that multiculturalism enables learning
- To make explicit the requirements for use of languages during instruction

This policy was last reviewed and revised in October 2023. The policy will again be reviewed during the second semester of 2023/2024, when lessons learned can be incorporated. Please submit any feedback to the IB DP coordinator. Students may submit feedback to any other teacher, if so preferred.

Do not hesitate to ask for clarification of any aspect of this policy.

School philosophy

- The school's IB DP language of instruction is English
- We treat all languages equally when providing resources
- We provide the ability to acquire new languages to all students
- We provide the ability and require students to develop the national language (an exception is permitted for international/exchange students, but every student **must** learn at least one language apart from their native language)
- We provide the ability to develop the students' native language, and where that is not the national language, we ensure that if required, we provide resources necessary for the student
- We provide the opportunity to learn bilingually and we believe it develops open-mindedness
- Across our curriculum we provide opportunity for language development

Practices in the community

- The school staff communicates in the students' preferred language unless the curriculum requires that a specific task be performed in a specific language
- Nonetheless, support in the student's chosen language is always available and it is the duty of any educational staff to facilitate communication and help with language issues when necessary
- The school observes official state policy on the language of all required documentation
- Interpreters are made available whenever required
- The school fosters the development of multilingual communities and works to prevent student self-selection/grouping based on language ability or native language
- The school communicates with parents to ensure that students are making clear their needs and that they are never disadvantaged because of their language skills, with the expectation that parents make any future needs (e.g. planning to study abroad in a specific language or environment) clear

Practices in learning

- We offer the ability to study any language as a group 1 language, provided the student can prove their ability and dedication
- Students as inquirers can acquire a new language as language B, or they may continue to develop a language they have begun to study earlier
- The school supports students attempting to acquire certification for their language skills, e.g. German DSD
- The school provides after-school classes for students as communicators wishing to interact with native speakers and hone their public speaking and debating ability in languages they are acquiring; members of the wider community may take part in these classes if they are able to act in a safe and respectful manner with the students and the comfort of the school community is considered in these cases, this also enables students to become more open-minded to others' views
- The school provides students resources such as textbooks in languages other than the language of IB DP instruction, and indicates to students the correspondence between these resources and the IB DP curriculum; these resource are available both in the school library and online
- Teachers adapt their instruction to any special needs of their students, including gifted students

Entering the IB DP

- Language ability is a requirement of entering IB DP, but the school offers language acquisition courses to both own students and outside students to enable diversity and to prevent inequality of opportunity; these courses are available in a virtual form to ensure that nobody is disadvantaged because of their physical locations in relation to the school
- The IB DP entrance examination is demanding, rigorous and uses well-recognized outside assessment resources to ensure impartiality

Languages available for study

- Latvian
- Russian
- French
- English
- German

Support for and requirements for teachers

- The school provides IB professional development opportunities for language teachers
- The school provides language acquisition and development opportunities for prospective and existing IB DP teachers
- The school's language teachers work with other teachers to ensure the curriculum and resources provided by teachers provide an example to follow with regards to the quality of the language used
- Language development and acquisition is an integrated practice across the entire curriculum