



**BRITISH INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL of TIMISOARA**

THE IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

We Provide the Foundation on Which Our Children Can Flourish

Preliminary Language Policy

Our Vision

*We provide the Foundation on which our Children can Flourish
Inspiring our students to Learn and Live with Purpose*

Our Mission

*Building a community of learners where students are given meaningful opportunities to
learn, experience, grow, succeed and excel in all areas of their academic and personal
development*

Our Core Values

*We Think, We Explore and We Learn
We Listen, We Respect and We Care
We Speak Up, We Participate and We Strive*

IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Purpose

The purpose of this Language Policy is to articulate our beliefs about the place of language in the education we offer and the responsibilities which arise from these beliefs. It is intended to guide us to ensure access to a full curriculum through English, promote our host country language, Romanian and to develop acquisition and support in a wide range of other languages, as it is possible for a school of our size. The policy is designed to underpin our instructional practice.

The Language Policy is comprehensive and school-wide and includes the twin goals of mastering a high-quality academic curriculum and acquiring English-language proficiency for all students. By integrating language into every aspect of the curriculum, we are teaching students the importance of culture, diversity and sensitivity towards others, which in turn enhances their personal growth, cognitive development, and facilitates international understanding. Through the strong emphasis on language, our goal is to foster a deep understanding about language in all disciplines.

Overview:

- All lessons are taught in English, with the exception of Modern Foreign Languages and dedicated Romanian lessons (including Language A Romanian Literature for IB students);
- For students enrolled in the IB Diploma Programme we offer Language A English Language and Literature and English Literature;
- As a British curriculum based international school, all students are encouraged to communicate in English in the classroom and as much as possible outside the classroom. However, native tongue languages are also embraced and celebrated outside the classroom and during numerous specific international events where the school recognises its unique position as a multi-cultural environment; currently (2021), there are over 20 nationalities represented in the school;
- When students join the school their level of English is assessed and systems put in place to help improve their ability to access the curriculum. In the Primary School the TA's have a vital part to play in this process; many are Romanian and have excellent English skills and qualifications and can act as a bridge between the classroom teacher and the student until a student feels confident with their English language skills to access the mainstream curriculum;
- Those students with specific needs to improve their English will engage in the EAL programme (see below and EAL policy);
- The ultimate aim for English skills within the school, is for all students to be able to access British qualifications at KS3, 4 and finally the international challenges of the IB Diploma Programme (subject to authorisation);
- EAL support can continue through KS2, 3 & 4 for those students who need it. Lessons are organised according to need; either as support in the classroom or in small EAL classes embedded in the curriculum and replacing, perhaps, a Modern Foreign Language or Humanities; determined by the needs of the individual student.

The wider picture: Romanian Language and MFL provision:

- The study of other foreign languages (apart from English and Romanian) is encouraged and possible.
- MFL teaching (currently French, German and Spanish) begins in Year 3. Specialist teachers of these languages are employed to deliver these subjects. MFL teachers teach in both primary and secondary school so can develop a holistic approach to the delivery of MFL; seeing a student grow in confidence in what is most probably their third language (after English and Romanian); In Years 12 and 13 the students have the opportunity to study the following languages (B and Ab initio): German, French and Spanish.

- All students will study Romanian Language (native and non-native levels are available) as part of their weekly timetable; the Romanian Language curriculum has been adapted to our school needs and possibilities;
- This profile of a multi-lingual fully rounded student is part of the vision of the school;
- The MFL of choice can be pursued by students ultimately to iGCSE level (Cambridge examinations) and beyond to be used as part of a student's profile at IB level (subject to authorisation). At IB level Romanian Literature can be part of a student's portfolio as well; currently it is not an iGCSE option but students will study Romanian as part of their iGCSE programme without a specific iGCSE qualification at the end of Year 11: this policy is to recognise that, whilst the main focus of the KS3 and 4 curriculum is British based, it is not to the exclusion of native culture and language (in Year 12 students can opt for Language A Romanian Literature);
- The EAL policy (outlined in brief below), is central to developing each student's skills to access a curriculum delivered in English, whilst recognising the international make-up of the school.

School Supported Self-taught Language A Study Options

- BIST is committed to support multilingualism; As it continues to grow the school is planning to offer several self-taught language A options for the students. In order to facilitate learning and enable students to achieve their full potential, BIST will explore and recommend its students the services offered by Pamoja Education;
- The availability of language options will be primarily determined by the students' native language and their interest.

(Further reading: Language A: literature (school-supported self-taught, first assessment 2021)

EAL Policy in Summary:

- To assess students applying to study at BIST in order to accurately determine their level of English proficiency;
- To place students in need of English support in an appropriate EAL class;
- To provide 1-5 hours of extra English support each week, depending on the need of the student;
- Where a special need has been identified, to design a programme to cater to that individual need;
- To help students to develop the ability to understand and use English effectively for the purposes of practical communication;
- To develop the ability to use English effectively in order to be able to achieve academic success;
- To teach in such a way so that students enjoy the experience of learning English;
- To provide a positive, supportive, learning environment.

Policy Review

This policy will be collaboratively reviewed regularly by the School Leadership Team and DP teachers and will be adjusted as necessary based on all possible requirements and updates for this area.

SLT, October 2021

Amended, November 2021

Next review date: June 2022.