



International Baccalaureate

Language Policy

Language is the most important factor in ensuring inclusion

- As an IB school, we both recognize and value the different linguistic backgrounds of our students. An understanding of and respect for these differences is important in creating a vibrant intercultural environment and a sense of school community.
- This language policy provides guidelines for how we help Pre-IB and Diploma students in meeting the language challenges of the IB programme and being part of a school with a strong Danish cultural background.
- Our aim is to create open-minded and active learners who embrace and respect each other's linguistic and cultural differences.

Diversity

IB students at KG come from a wide range of linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Students from the same language background are welcome to speak their own language outside of the classroom where all members of the group share the language. In all other situations, the language of communication must be English.

Language of Communication

The working language of the IB programme at KG is English, thus English is the language of inclusion. All communication within and about the programme, both in writing and orally must therefore be in English. All relevant school documents and communications must be translated to English for IB students.

Language of Instruction

English is the language of instruction and communication in the classroom at all times. Where possible in language classes the instruction language may also be the target language (supplemented by English when necessary). We therefore recognize that all teachers are also teachers of English.

Language Responsibilities of Teachers

Teachers in all subjects have the responsibility to ensure that the students can understand and communicate their knowledge as effectively as possible in that subject. In practice this means ensuring that the students can understand and apply the subject command terms and other essential terminology correctly and can read, interpret and understand the texts and examination questions with which they are presented.



International Baccalaureate

Furthermore, teachers must provide constructive feedback on the quality of language in student responses, and address matters where language can be a barrier to the students' effective communication of knowledge and understanding.

Group 1 Languages A

Students must choose at least one Language A course. The school encourages as many students as possible to study the literature and culture of their own mother tongue. We offer classes at Higher Level and Standard Level in **Danish A Literature** and **English A Language and Literature**.

A significant number of students choose **Literature A SL self-taught** courses each year in a wide range of languages. The self-taught coordinator, Else Steen, is responsible for helping these students in organising their programme, and IB coordinator arranges contracts with support teachers in other IB schools who can give feedback on assignments in the appropriate language. These students are furthermore offered extra lessons in literary analysis and theory.

Many students have complex language backgrounds, having lived and studied in more than one country, often having one language at home with the family and another that they regard as the main language of communication in school and the wider world. With this in mind, we encourage students to take two Group 1 subjects where there is an equal level of fluency in both languages.

Group 2 Language Acquisition

All students must study at least two languages from groups 1 and 2. The school offers **Danish B**, **Danish Ab Initio**, **English B**, **German B**, and **Spanish ab initio** as foreign languages (sometimes French B and Spanish B when there is sufficient demand). Students may choose one or sometimes two of these languages. The timetable gives opportunities to study up to three languages from the two groups, and in practice approx. 1/3 of our students study three languages (including mother tongue) in their IB programme. It is also possible to take a further language as an additional certificate

Danish

Danish is the first language of Kolding Gymnasium and approximately 50% of IB students have Danish as mother tongue. We therefore encourage IB students whenever possible to acquire and develop competence in Danish in order to take a full part in the school, local community and to prepare for possible long-term residence in Denmark. We regard it as very important that our students are able to read, speak and understand Danish to some extent. All Pre-IB students are required to take Danish (as mother tongue or in a beginner's course). In Diploma we offer Danish B to those who already have some Danish skills, and Danish Ab Initio for beginners. Those not choosing Danish are recommended to attend the local language school, for which they may gain CAS credits.



International Baccalaureate

University Admission in Denmark

In order to be admitted to a Danish University or University College applicants must have at least completed Danish B Higher Level or taken a corresponding exam. All foreign students are informed about this requirement before starting the IB and the school provides the necessary teaching for those interested.

Library

The school library has reference works, magazines and journals in English, and students can gain access to a wide range of other materials through school web-access licenses, and the libraries in Kolding and at the University of Southern Denmark.