

GERMAN EMBASSY SCHOOL TEHRAN

INTERNATIONAL SECTION

LANGUAGE POLICY

Last modified September 2017





Beliefs and values

- Language underpins the foundation of thinking and development of rich, clear self-expression.
- Language learning is cross-disciplinary.
- Each member of staff is a language teacher, and role model for effective communication.

We believe that learning to speak more than one language is empowering and helping to link people locally and globally. Language development is crucial for promoting cultural identity, empathy and international mindedness. A learner's mother tongue is a key component of cognitive development and cultural identity.

Aims

- Support each child to reach its full potential in language learning in oral, written, and visual communication.
- Develop individual self-expression and self-confidence via a broad and balanced language curriculum.
- Foster an enthusiasm for languages.
- Allow each learner to experience a range of language opportunities across and throughout all the subject areas.
- Recognize different stages of language development and endeavor to support each learner.
- Enable learners to interact effectively in a cross-cultural and globalized society using multiple languages and a range of modes of communication.
- Support the use of a broad range of multimedia resources.
- Ensure the diversity of the school is reflected in the language programs.
- Provide support for learners of English as an Additional Language (EAL) to ensure success in the mainstream classroom.
- Encourage the use and development of mother tongue (for languages other than German and Farsi) through clubs and mother tongue section in the library.

Teaching and Learning

At the International Section of German Embassy School Tehran, we strive to:

- Provide a variety of meaningful and authentic language learning opportunities including trips and local community links.
- Cater for different learning styles.
- Acknowledge differences in developmental stages, and provide differentiated learning experiences through team-teaching.





- Foster supportive, positive and reflective language learning environments, allowing learners to take risks.
- Develop competency, creativity, independence when learning, and using languages across a broad range of contexts.
- Enable critical reflection on how language works and how texts are structured.
- Deliver language programs through a variety of methods and strategies, linking closely with an emphasis on inquiry.
- Utilize school's language policy and IB scope and sequence documents to guide planning, teaching and assessing.
- Recognize speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing, presenting, spelling and grammar as critical aspects of language development.
- Provide a range of appropriate, multicultural language resources over a full range of genres and text types.
- Guide students in the appreciation of different forms and aesthetic qualities of language.
- Provide students with a physical environment, which enriches their language development.
- Record comments/results/grades to communicate progress of students
- Make links within our school and wider community to support each learner as they use and develop their mother tongue.

Special Educational Needs

The German Embassy School International Section recognizes a variety of levels of abilities across the curriculum and adapts content to meet the needs of every learner. We aim to provide additional support for students whose skills require further development to ensure success in the classroom. A Special Educational Needs department will be established in the future.

Mother Tongue

A learner's mother tongue is the first language learned at home. Students at the German Embassy School International Section are encouraged to preserve their cultural identity within a supportive community of learners. Parents are encouraged to read, write and speak with their children at home in their mother tongue. Development of the mother tongue gives the children a deeper understanding of language, strengthens their literacy skills across all languages and develops flexible thinking skills.

Library

The library currently has resources in English, Persian, French and German, as well as other languages. The library incorporates a range of fiction and non-fiction books. The school has hired a PYP teacher librarian and is in the process of improving the library and adding to the technology currently in use.





Admission Policy and Language Requirements/Assessment

On admission to the school, a profile is made for each student to make sure that a child's needs are met effectively. Information is gathered during the admission process and followed up by on-going formal and informal assessments by teachers. Proficiency in English is taken into consideration.

Language Policy Review Cycle

This document is flexible to the needs of our dynamic and growing school community, and will be reviewed every other year. In order to foster quality language opportunities and support the practices and procedures outlined in this document, provisions will be made for resource and ongoing professional development.