

WINS - LANGUAGE POLICY

English is the language of instruction at WINS but the school is located in a community that does not benefit from a greatly international population, so about 50% of the school population is traditionally from the host country and their first language is Italian.

WINS therefore has the dual objective to combine an international program with a strong Italian language and culture base so that students can benefit from the values and advantages of both the IB approach as well as the rich Italian cultural heritage.

Being an international school, teachers come from different English-speaking countries and all types of English are acknowledged. Non-English teachers such as foreign language teachers are the only staff members who may communicate in languages other than English both with students and fellow staff members.

Language philosophy

WINS' pedagogical team firmly believes that to learn a language you must use it. We encourage teachers, students and staff to use English as their language of communication in all circumstances. Students are surrounded by their native language when they are out of school or with their families, therefore when students are at WINS we want to make sure they are surrounded by English. WINS strongly believes languages are a fundamental tool for the development of internationally open-minded students and we therefore encourage students to study three languages from the beginning of the primary program.

At WINS we believe all teachers are language teachers, and there is an emphasis on language use and development in all subject areas. As an IB Candidate school, we emphasize correct language use and development through our transdisciplinary curriculum and inquiry based approach to learning along with explicit language instruction.

Native languages other than English or Italian will be supported in the Diploma Years section with self-taught subject offers and at lower levels through extra-curricular courses organized by the school.



Language Policy

English

WINS is a non-selective school that considers its status as international school as a duty to be inclusive and support the enrollment of both foreign and domestic students wishing to approach an international education out of need or choice. This for us implies there are no minimum English language entry requirements up to grade 6. Students with an initial English level is below the grade working level will be supported through in-class differentiated activities, specific curricular English as an Additional Language (EAL) lessons and/or additional extra-curricular EAL lessons. Each situation will be considered on a case by case basis and the best individualized solution will be implemented.

From grade 7 onwards, the school wishes to give students who are not fluent in English the opportunity to join the program if they meet minimum requirements and demonstrate strong motivation in learning. For this reason, the minimum requirement for enrollment are as follows:

- Grades 7 and 8: A2 level of the European framework/KET with Merit/ or passing mark on our placement test.
- Grades 9 and 10: B1 level of the European framework/PET/ or passing mark on our placement test.
- on the IBDP: a high B1 level of the European framework/PET with Merit/IGCSE English Second Language grade C or equivalent / or passing mark on the school's placement test.

Students meeting only the minimum entry requirements for English are obliged to follow additional English classes aimed at reaching a full B1 level / PET by the end ICE Year 1 and a full B2 level / FCE by the end of IBDP Year 1.

Host-country language

WINS supports and embraces the study of the local language by including one period a day of Italian from the Early Years to grade 5 in accordance with the Italian national curriculum. Children who not Italian L1 will be supported in their learning through diversified activities and additional Italian L2 language classes if necessary.

In the Secondary School (grades 6 to 8) language is divided into studies in language and literature and language acquisition courses. Every student is required to take at least two languages. Italian mother tongue students follow an Italian national



curriculum adapted to the IB MYP approach and methodology (Language and literature course), whereas non-Italian mother tongue students follow the Language acquisition course. In this subject group, teaching and learning is organized into six phases. The phases do not correspond to particular age groups or MYP year levels. Students do not necessarily begin in phase one – they can begin at any phase, depending on their prior experiences, and may exit from any phase on the continuum. At the end of phase 6, their level allows them to be integrated within the Language and literature group.

Language Certifications

WINS believes setting objectives and prizing merit are essential components in the learning process and in this perspective has decided to promote language certifications for all languages studied at the school.

During the Primary Years, children are prepared to take the Cambridge Young Learners' exams to then move on to PET and FCE in the Middle Years. During the Diploma Years students are encouraged to take either CAE and CPE or IELTS.

The study of the other foreign languages is encouraged with the additional objective and opportunity of achieving officially recognized language certifications: DELE A2, B1 and B2 for Spanish, DELF A2, B1 and B2 for French, Goethe-Zertificat A2, B1 and B2 for German.

Non-native English Teachers

Non-native English teachers who are required to teach subjects in English are required to have an appropriate level of the language, intended as a full C1 or advanced level. The school offers professional language training for teachers and staff who wish or need to improve or consolidate their level.

The school encourages non-English mother tongue teachers to teach subjects other than their own language as this is seen as a way to promote cultural exchanges which are enriching and beneficial for the students.

Handwriting Policy

In line with its approach of inclusiveness, WINS has opted not to teach cursive as there are multiple different styles and it would risk being confusing for the children. WINS has adopted a shared standard for letter formation to be taught in its Primary



grades, but other styles will be accepted as long as they are clearly legible (see attachment).

Given the importance of cursive in the Italian academic program, Italian teachers may teach the Italian cursive style in Italian classes.

Appendix 2

Letter formation

