



IB DP LANGUAGE POLICY

International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools are required to have a written language policy. Bedford Road Collegiate (BRC) is an IB World School offering the Diploma Programme. This document identifies our philosophy of language teaching and learning: to create open-minded and active learners who respect and embrace one another's cultural and linguistic differences. The policy includes the goals associated with Group 1: Language and Literature and Group 2: Language B. In addition, the policy outlines the provisions for Additional Language Learners.

LANGUAGE PROFILE

Bedford Road's diverse population is reflected in the language profile of the students who attend the school. As of 2021, 73% of students identified English as their first language, 10% indicated Urdu, 5% Bengali, 2.3% Punjabi, 2.3% Tagalog, and the remaining 7.4% comprised a total of 24 other first languages.

RATIONALE

In a learning community of such linguistic and cultural diversity, there is a need to share a common language to empower each student to participate in the life of the school. Thus, English language learning is central to being a part of the Bedford Road family.

It is also of increasing importance for students to be provided meaningful opportunities to experience and learn additional languages or further develop their first language. This is recognized in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child:

The education of the child shall be directed to [...] the development of respect for the child's parents, [their] own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which [they] may originate and for civilizations different from [their] own.
(Article 29)

PHILOSOPHY

- Language is central to learning, and all teachers are, in practice, language teachers with a responsibility to facilitate communication (*Guidelines for developing a school language policy*).
- Human language is unique in that it is not limited to a single mode (ex. written, oral); it is multi-form and dynamic, emerging and evolving across space, time, and subject areas.
- All subject areas rely on language not only for instruction, but for proper expression of knowledge claims. Mathematics and the arts, therefore, involve the acquisition and application of a unique language.
- All forms of language (written, spoken, symbolic, etc) are interconnected and reflective of our shared need to understand our world, understand each other, and make ourselves understood.
- Language learning promotes inter-cultural understanding.
- Language learning provides multiple perspectives through which we can better understand the world, others and ourselves.
- Language is central to the expression of self and must be valued as a part of the student's identity.
- Acquisition of language is a life-long process and is central to intellectual and personal growth.
- Staff must acknowledge the academic, social, emotional and linguistic needs of all students and work to support them within and outside of the classroom.
- Equity of access to IB courses is a fundamental right of all qualified students.

PRACTICES

Saskatoon Public Schools has established a division-wide strategic goal that every student shall be “known, valued, and believed in”, and Bedford Road is committed to this goal. As such, Bedford Road recognizes and acts upon the rights of students to receive education that does not discriminate based on language. The school provides each student the opportunity for a language assessment to identify their needs and to assure that they are fully supported in having their needs served.

PUBLICATION

This document will be available on the Saskatoon School Division’s Portal for Bedford Road Collegiate.

REVIEW

This policy will be subject to review by a Language Policy Steering Committee. Any changes or amendments must be presented to School Administration and teaching staff for approval.

Updated: December 2021

Every teacher at Bedford Road Collegiate is a language teacher to the extent that every academic discipline requires the acquisition of subject-specific communication skills and understandings. Every teacher therefore works to help students become effective communicators using the modes and language of communication relevant to their area of study.

English is the working language of the school, and all students complete courses in English literature each year. EAL (English as an Additional Language) courses are available to students requiring support in their acquisition of the English language. EAL students are identified by the EAL teacher in consultation with teachers and families, with the support of language assessments. The EAL teacher plays an integral role in providing the necessary supports and professional learning to classroom teachers.

Bedford Road Collegiate teachers, staff and administration are committed to supporting all students in maintaining and developing their home/personal language.

The school supports students with a first or home language other than English in completing IB school-supported, self-taught (SSST) literature courses in their preferred language. This occurs in consultation with student services, guardians, and the IB Coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for arranging appropriate faculty supervision and support for the student.

All teachers and staff are wholly committed to providing instruction and assessment that does not discriminate on the basis of language. The school therefore aims to provide ongoing opportunities for teachers and staff to improve their abilities to honour student voice and their diverse linguistic aptitudes.

Our ELA teachers maintain a professional development team devoted to selecting texts reflective of a myriad of linguistic and cultural traditions, as well as seeking out best practices related to pursuing opportunities for students to take an active role in using the home/personal linguistic expertise to enrich the learning experience for all.

Opportunities for sharing and celebrating our linguistic and cultural diversity are central to Bedford Road. The school maintains and furthers this rich tradition through a variety of practices, including: *Be-You-Tiful Day of Diversity*, multicultural fairs, peer-tutoring, language clubs, and CAS projects.

Bedford Road Collegiate offers language acquisition courses in French, Canada’s second official language: Core 9-10, IB French ab initio, IB French SL, and French A – Literature (School-Supported Self-Taught).

To assure proper placement within the IB DP, the following guidelines are employed:

- *French ab initio (SL)*: students with “very little exposure” to the language (*Language ab initio guide, IBO*) and who demonstrate at best a basic ability in the language
- *French B SL*: “students with some previous experience of the target language” (*Language B guide, IBO*) and who demonstrate a strong foundation in receptive and productive skills
- *French A – Literature School-Supported Self-Taught*: Francophone students who demonstrate a high-degree of fluency, independence, and skill in literary analysis

Language A:

The school offers Language A: Literature HL and will follow the prescribed course requirements as set out in the *Language A: literature guide* (first examinations 2021). Students are encouraged to study texts to understand that language is central to engagement with language and culture. By extension, we more clearly understand our world. Teachers will work with students to develop “critical literacy” of language and literature.

Language A – Literature: School-Supported Self-Taught

SSST students work in conjunction with the Group 2 teacher(s) to develop a syllabus and course structure aligning with the appropriate IB materials:

- Language A: literature guide (first examinations 2021)
- Language A: literature SSST student guide (2021)
- Language-specific support in Language A: literature SSST courses (2021)
- Prescribed reading list (<https://ibpublishing.ibo.org/prl/index.html>)

Language B:

Bedford Road Collegiate shares the IB mission to “develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.” (*Language B guide, 2020*) Therefore the belief is that language acquisition is vital to fostering the culture of understanding and respect. BRC offers French B SL and French ab initio in a blended environment.

Home Language:

Bedford Road Collegiate understands and appreciates the importance of preserving a student’s home language and the integral role it plays in facilitating intercultural understanding and respect. It is important for students to use and preserve their mother tongue as it is an integral part of their identity and ability to learn. Students and parents are supported in doing so through the EAL department at BRC and through practices at the Saskatoon Public School Newcomer Centre.

