



Bali Island School
for a World-Class Education

Language Policy





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Languages Policy

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BIS Guiding Statements

Vision: To be the school of choice for internationally-minded families and a leader of IB World Schools in Indonesia.

Mission: Engaging and empowering globally-minded, confident learners to reach their utmost potential in an active, creative and respectful learning community.

International Baccalaureate® Mission Statement

The IB develops inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through education that builds intercultural understanding and respect.

International Baccalaureate® Learner Profile

This procedure document fosters the following Learner Profile attributes:

Inquirers Knowledgeable Thinkers **Communicators** Principled **Open-minded** Caring Risk-takers
Balanced Reflective

Related BIS Policies or Procedures

BIS POLICY MANUAL: 6.11

“Language wraps itself around, in, through and between everything that we teachers and learners do in the classroom.”

(Ritchhart 2002: 141)

BIS LANGUAGES POLICY

1. Philosophy

- The Languages Policy reflects our commitment to the principles of equity, access, and respect for diversity, aligning with the IB Programme Standards and Practices, other BIS policies where appropriate, the BIS mission and values, and international best practices.
- Bali Island School (BIS) values linguistic and cultural diversity and recognizes that language acquisition and proficiency are instrumental to the success of our students as globally minded learners, as community members and eventually as independent adults who will be empowered to communicate in more than one language.
- As a multicultural school situated in Indonesia, we are committed to providing students with access to Bahasa Indonesia learning, utilising the host country and community for language and cultural experiences throughout the curriculum. Equally important to the school is the belief that each student should have the opportunity to maintain and develop their mother tongue(s). The acquisition of additional languages allows students to further reflect upon and explore different cultural perspectives.
- English is the language of instruction at BIS; as such, we aim to ensure English access to the three IB programs offered by the school for all students.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the Languages Policy is to:

- Ensure that we live the BIS mission and values
- Communicate expectations so that all members of the school community understand their roles and responsibilities in implementing inclusive practices for languages at BIS. ([Inclusion Policy](#))
- Ensure collaborative practices exist among staff, students, parents and teachers, to support every learner and members of the community.
- Ensure that all legal requirements are met.

3. Guiding Principles

Language is seen as an essential tool for teaching and learning; therefore, BIS's language programs are based on the following principles:

- Teaching and learning language at BIS is integrated within all subject areas and all teachers are responsible for teaching language.

- Language is best acquired in a positive and supportive, yet challenging and motivating environment. Procedures will be developed to ensure there is intentionality from each teacher for how language is supported in the classroom.
- Language acquisition occurs along a continuum and each individual should be allowed to progress at their own rate with appropriate support. The learning of any language is developmental, building constructively on knowledge to help move forward.
- Language develops holistically rather than in parts. Speaking and listening, reading and writing, viewing and presenting skills are interrelated and interdependent and therefore should be taught on a regular basis within all subjects aligned with the development of Approaches to Learning (ATL) skills.
- Language skills are acquired most effectively from using language in meaningful and realistic contexts. These contexts vary, but often involve the use of real-life scenarios, native speakers, the local area and a wide variety of text types.
- We recognize that learning and communicating in several languages enables our students to understand, value, share and learn about a range of cultures, including their own. For BIS, multilingualism is considered as an important factor in fostering international-mindedness/developing global citizens at BIS through the promotion of cultural identity, the IB Learner Profile attributes, intercultural and ATL skills.

Language Pathways and IB requirements at BIS

- The language of instruction at BIS is English and English language acquisition is provided up to Grade 10. Any Grade 10 student who applies for the IB Diploma (Grades 11-12) must have demonstrated English language skills proficiency in all subjects, including English Language A during Grades 9 and 10. Exceptions to this can be made by the IBDP Co-ordinator in consultation with the Secondary Principal and reasons for the exception documented for reference.
- Bahasa Indonesian language learning is provided at all grade levels and BIS follows the Indonesian legal requirements for Indonesian citizens.
- Other foreign languages are offered in different sections of the school by Board approval and within the current school enrolment constraints. If any language is to be phased out of the school due to changing context and demographics, there needs to be a plan that ensures existing enrolled students are not disadvantaged.
- BIS Students are allowed and encouraged to use their mother tongue to access the curriculum. For instance, they may translate tasks and their responses to the tasks between English and their mother tongues, and they are encouraged to share their learning and progress with their parents and other members of the community using their mother tongue.

The School invests in qualified, professional language teachers for the language of instruction, host language and other languages.

As an IB World School, we are committed to the following Practices throughout all sections of the school:

- The school places importance on language learning, including mother tongue, host country language and other languages (IB Standard A, Practice 7).
- Teaching and learning addresses the diversity of student language needs, including those for students learning a language(s) other than their mother tongue (IB Standard C3, Practice 7).
- Teaching and learning demonstrates that all teachers are responsible for language development of students (IB Standard C3, Practice 8).
- Assessment at the school aligns with the requirements of the programme(s). (IB Standard C4, Practice 1).
- Collaborative planning and reflection recognizes that all teachers are responsible for language development of students (IB Standard C1, Practice 8).
- The school utilizes the resources and expertise of the community to enhance learning within the programmes (IB Standard B2, Practice 11).

4. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all BIS students, staff, and community members. It encompasses practices related to admissions, teaching, learning, assessments and the overall school environment.

5. Definitions

- **Language A** - Mother tongue instruction to include analysis and critical thinking of important texts and poetry, essay writing and instruction.
- **Language B** - Language acquisition classes to include speaking, reading, writing, listening, presentation skill improvement.
- **Language B ab initio** - A DP course offering for students new to a language (phase 1 or 2)
- **Language of Instruction** - The language employed by teachers and students. English is the BIS language of instruction in all classes except for Bahasa Indonesia, and other foreign languages.
- **English as an Additional Language (EAL)** - EAL defines our EAL Program and the students who are learning English in our language acquisition program.
- **Mother Tongue** - The language a student is most comfortable using, typically the primary language used at home.
- **English language skills** include speaking and listening, reading and writing, viewing and presenting.

BIS Languages Policy: Board approved (15 April 2026)

To be reviewed: April 2028