



NEW YORK
ACADEMY

NYA LANGUAGE POLICY

Philosophy

At New York Academy, we believe that language is an essential tool for communication and the development of social, emotional, and cognitive skills. We believe that all teachers are language teachers and should promote the concept of communication in its variety of forms throughout the school community.

We offer admission to students from different linguistic backgrounds therefore students are given support in the language of instruction whenever needed. The school's philosophy aims at understanding and respecting the languages and cultures of other communities and offering students the study of a foreign language from Early Years.

English is the language of instruction therefore the teachers focus on developing presenting, speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in English. We also recognize the importance of the official language of the country and thus promote the acquisition of Hindi as mandatory. French and Spanish are introduced to Early Years and from grade 1, students get to choose one language.

The School's Language policy recognizes:

- Building the language portrait of the learner to build upon personal culture and linguistic practices.
- Acquisition of more than one language to facilitate international-mindedness/global competency.
- Language learning is reinforced in multiple ways, including learning language, learning about language and learning through language.
- Importance of home and family language.

Language learning plays an important role and learning through language is created when we:

- Plan learning experiences that enable learners to develop language within a meaningful and enjoyable context.
- Integrate language with other subject areas.
- Ensure that multiple languages are seen and heard throughout the school and in communication between home and school.
- Promote language learning to strengthen intercultural relationships.

School Language Profile

At New York Academy, the medium of instruction is English and students have been learning this as their first language. This is the stipulated language of communication for all purposes. It is the school's internal working language, in which all operational and development activities take place. It is also the language of its governance, management and academic committees.

Written communication between school and parents is done in English through SMS, notices, circulars, announcements, e-mails etc. When needed the staff do converse in Hindi or Telugu.

Student Language Portrait

Language backgrounds of the students are captured through student language portraits. The portrait includes the details about 'Home and Family' language.

Home Language is the language the student uses to communicate at home with their relatives, friends, grandparents etc. Family Language is the language which is rooted in their culture.

Languages learned and offered at all levels

Language Options	Early Years
Medium of language/Language 1	English
Additional language/ 2nd Language	French, Spanish, Hindi

Language Options	PYP (Grades 1-6)
Medium of language/Language 1	English
Additional language/2nd Language (optional)	French, Spanish
Mandatory	Hindhi

Support for students not proficient in the language of instruction

- Differentiation in language is based on the requirements of the learners. Different strategies like working in small groups, using different resources with different levels of language complexity may be used.
- Students will be given choices to use a preferred language while sharing their learning.
- Resources: Several strategies and resources for language learning are available in the library.

Roles and responsibilities:

- The teachers review the learning and teaching and assessment practices periodically, and also revise the same where needed.
- The students have access to texts, newspapers, magazines, and other relevant materials.
- The students are allowed to use their home/family language to communicate.
- Parents are also involved in the language learning process and they are expected to provide age-appropriate books, magazines, and other support materials to extend language learning.

Connecting language learning to other policies in school:

Library policy - Based on the language profile of the students, the library and the media center is equipped with resources to support language learning. The resources cater to the diversity and language needs of the community.

Learning Diversity/Inclusion Policy – A student must not be regarded as having a learning disability solely because of the language barrier. The homeroom teacher must have a plan for the student.

Assessment policy - Teachers will assess language skills - reading, speaking, writing, listening regularly. Assessments will provide information on language growth and areas to work on. Students can also express their understanding of a concept in their home language or family language. They will be assessed using different strategies and tools.

Admission policy - We accept students at all levels of proficiency in English Language. During the admission process the admin department needs to inform the Principal and the Coordinator, about the students' language requirements.

Bibliography

- Primary Years Programme: Guidelines for developing a school language policy. International Baccalaureate Organization, January 2006.
- PYP Language Scope & Sequence, 2009.
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- Lancers International School, language policy
- International School of Hellerup, language policy.