



Language Policy

The aim of the College is to enable boys and girls to develop their love of learning, academic potential and individual talents in a caring community which fosters sensitivity, confidence, a sense of service and enthusiasm for life.

Policy objective: to set out the philosophy and required practice for Language learning and usage.

Philosophy: Language is at the root of all learning. We learn about language and we learn through language. Our language, or languages, forms an integral part of our identity as human beings and world citizens. With this in mind, Ardingly College places the study of language at the centre of all that it does. The College is an Anglophone environment with an international perspective. The College recognises and celebrates the diversity of tongues amongst its community and sees this as a rich source of linguistic expertise. All teachers are teachers of language. The medium of instruction is, predominantly but not exclusively, English. The admission policy of the College recognises this fact and students are expected to be fluent in the language of the host country on entry. The study of language will equip students to:

- Think clearly, learn effectively and build successful relationships.
- Develop an awareness of the diversity of languages, and cultures, in the world community
- Progress as independent and life-long learners.

Linguistic and Cultural Diversity: whilst English is the predominant medium of instruction the College recognises the importance and value of other languages and cultures. Opportunities will be provided to experience and celebrate the diversity of languages that exist in the College community. All students are expected to learn at least one modern foreign language. Non-native speakers will be supported by the EAL department. Where possible, teaching in languages other than English will be provided. Extracurricular and cultural events that celebrate languages, such as National Poetry Day and the Woodard Asia Evening, will take place.

From Philosophy to Practice: the following are the central tenets of the Ardingly College approach to language.

- Language is the key to learning.
- All teachers are teachers of language and are a rich source of expertise.
- All departments and curriculum areas have a responsibility to deliver language skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- All departments will teach subject specific vocabulary.
- All students are expected to learn at least one language other than their mother tongue. This will usually be through the Modern Foreign Language and English departments.
- The maintenance and support for the mother tongue is seen as vitally important. For many students, this will relate to the teaching and use of English

in the College. Other opportunities will be made available, such as the provision of reading materials in a variety of languages, in the library.

- All students in the senior school will have full access to the IB diploma Programme; non-native speakers will receive support as required from qualified EAL teachers.
- The language of the host country is promoted through the medium of instruction and communication but also specifically through the English Department. Students' use of English and other languages is promoted by competitions (in written spoken and dramatic forms) and other cultural events.
- All members of the College community will have access to professional development in the field of language through the College's INSED programme. Where specific needs are identified, the College will strive to ensure these are met.
- Ardingly College is part of a wider community and will consider the needs and interests of parents, friends, client groups and neighbours when formulating language policy decisions.
- The college will conduct a bi-annual audit of language knowledge and expertise within the College community.
- Just as language is dynamic and flexible, so too is the Ardingly College Language Policy
- The policy will be reviewed, initially at the Academic Planning Committee, every two years.

Monitoring:

Director of Studies
Academic Planning Committee

Policy Evaluation and Review:

Next review Sept 2012
Last Reviewed May 2011

Person Responsible:

Senior School Director of Studies