



Shanghai Hong Qiao International School  
Shanghai Rainbow Bridge International School  
上海虹橋國際外籍人員子女學校  
**EXCELLENCE SINCE 1997**

## **Language Policy**

### **Language Philosophy**

Language promotes social integration, personal identity and expression of culture. Language skills empower individuals to solve problems, think critically, interpret and make connections to the world. Language acquisition encompasses and expands each individual's ability to express thoughts, feelings and ideas, through different mediums. The acquisition of language allows individuals to become active and involved members of society by developing effective communication skills.

At HQIS our language of instruction is English. We acknowledge the differing levels of language ability and we differentiate our curriculum to cater for individual abilities. The Common Core State Standards for each year level are used, in combination with IB PYP principles

We view English as an inclusive language and we encourage students to use English at all times during the school day. Our students come from a variety of language backgrounds but the one language they have in common is English.

To help build and establish healthy relationships, We encourage English to be used as it includes the largest section of our school community. The PYP recognizes that language, our major means of thinking and communicating, is fundamental to learning. It underpins and permeates the whole curriculum. We nurture an appreciation of the richness of language, including a love of literature. Whilst the areas of language can be listed and observed separately, we view them as interrelated and interactive, with learning in one area supporting learning in the others. This is of particular relevance in an international school where every teacher is a language teacher.

Throughout the year, students are provided opportunities to explore their mother tongue and the languages of others, promoting an appreciation of culture within our international community. The home language may be used at the teacher's discretion to support learning, according to the age, maturity, and confidence of the individual student.

### **Principles of Language Learning at HQIS**

- Promotes authentic inquiry-based language learning.
- Incorporates the teaching and learning of language into all programs.
- Develops and interrelates the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing and media literacy.
- Promotes consistency of practice in the teaching and learning of languages.
- Provides inclusive and equitable access to our program.

### **Language Profile**

HQIS students come from diverse language backgrounds with a strong Chinese Heritage population. We acknowledge that many of our students use English as an additional language. There is a range of English proficiency across the school.

### **English at HQIS**

The Language of Instruction at HQIS is English. In order to access the curriculum at HQIS, all



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students need to continually develop their English proficiency. At HQIS, all teachers, parents, and community members are teachers of language. We believe that all stakeholders, including parents, play an important part in children's language acquisition. As a school community, we value a collaborative approach in helping all children access the curriculum through literacy development.

### **Mandarin at HQIS**

The host country language is Mandarin. For a large portion of our students, Mandarin is also their Mother Tongue. Therefore, all students at HQIS learn Mandarin to bridge their understanding of the local and national community in which our school sits. During their time at HQIS, all students will continually develop their Mandarin proficiency at their level.

The Nursery, Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Mandarin language program focuses on the development of oral communication through play-based activities. When children enter the Pre-Kindergarten program, they continue to develop their oral language skills and are introduced to basic Chinese characters through reading and writing.

The Elementary and Middle School, the Mandarin Language program focuses on developing oral language skills and the reading and writing of Chinese characters. When children enter the elementary program, they are challenged to develop their oral language skills, read and comprehend the meaning of Chinese characters as well as pinyin, and write Chinese characters and pinyin to express thoughts and ideas. Students are grouped according to Chinese language ability. Students are assessed throughout the year.

### **The Role of Mother Tongue at HQIS**

At HQIS we support children speaking their mother tongue. Research shows many skills acquired in the first language can be transferred to the second language. So, for example, if your child has developed good reading skills in their mother tongue, he or she is likely to be able to apply these skills when reading English. In addition, we recognize the significant role of language in understanding personal identity and appreciation of culture. Our library has a growing collection of books from around the world which students can check out and share with friends and family. Teachers also provide opportunities to incorporate student's mother tongue into lessons allowing students to share this special aspect of their culture. HQIS continues to explore additional activities which support an appreciation of home language.

### **English as an Additional Language**

The English as an Additional Language (EAL) program provides students support in learning English. The program helps students access the curriculum, communicate, express themselves, socialize and fully engage in the learning environment through the different strands of language.

When a non-native English speaking student enrolls at HQIS from Grade 1 and up, an assessment is administered to determine the student's language proficiency. The EAL Program offers both out-of-class instruction and flexible in-class support for students. EAL Teachers also collaborate with homeroom teachers to ensure the curriculum is accessible to



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all students.

### **Developing Language Teaching and Learning**

HQIS recognizes that staff needs continual development in order to meet the needs of our diverse student population. HQIS creates opportunities for expert led and embedded professional development in the areas of language development and teaching.

We understand the importance of professional development, and we have set up various in-house language development workshops equipping teachers with best practices, addressing differentiation and pedagogy of language learning. We also send our teaching staff for IB authorized workshops. We create a system within the school for sharing best practices from our staff.

**POLICY REVIEW** - A representative group will review the HQIS Language Policy regularly. The Senior Leadership Team will regularly review the implementation of the policy in classrooms and throughout the school

\*Was reviewed May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by Leadership.