



WBIS Language Policy: Primary to Secondary (Year 9)

1. Philosophy and Purpose

At WBIS, we believe that language is the vehicle for all learning and a tool for global citizenship. Our primary language of instruction is English; however, we recognize that a student's "mother tongue" (first language) is vital to their identity and cognitive development. This policy ensures a consistent approach to language acquisition and support as students progress from Pearson Primary to Year 9.

2. Language of Instruction (English)

English is the medium of instruction for all subjects (except World Languages).

- **Pearson Primary:** We focus on "Learning to Read" and developing foundational phonics, vocabulary, and communication skills using the Pearson Bug Club and ActiveLearn platforms.
- **Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9):** The focus shifts to "Reading to Learn." Students are expected to use academic English to analyze complex texts, write formal reports, and engage in sophisticated debates.

3. English as an Additional Language (EAL) Support

We welcome students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. To support those for whom English is not their first language:

- **Immersion with Support:** Students are immersed in English-speaking classrooms but receive "scaffolded" support (simplified texts, visual aids, and vocabulary banks).
- **Assessment:** We use Pearson-aligned assessments to track English proficiency and adjust support levels accordingly.

4. Host Country Language & Mother Tongue (Myanmar)

WBIS values the culture and language of Myanmar.

- **Myanmar Language Program:** All students have the opportunity to study the Myanmar language, ensuring that local students maintain their heritage and international students gain cultural appreciation.
- **Translanguaging:** In certain pedagogical contexts, students may use their mother tongue to clarify complex concepts before expressing their understanding in English.

5. World Languages (Secondary Key Stage 3)

Starting in the Secondary years, students are introduced to additional World Languages (e.g., Mandarin or French). This encourages:

- Cognitive flexibility.
- Multicultural awareness.
- Preparation for the IGCSE language requirements.

6. Literacy Across the Curriculum

Every teacher at WBIS is a language teacher. Whether in Art, PE, or Science, teachers are responsible for:

- Teaching the specific **tier-three vocabulary** (subject-specific terms) of their discipline.
- Modeling correct grammar and professional communication.
- Ensuring that students can communicate their findings clearly and accurately.

7. Assessment and Reporting

- **Standardized Tracking:** We utilize Pearson progress tests and Reading Checks to monitor literacy levels.
- **Evidence Collection:** As outlined in our school drive, teachers maintain records of student writing samples, reading levels, and oral presentations to ensure continuous linguistic growth.

8. Digital Literacy and Language

In our digital age, language includes the ability to navigate digital platforms. WBIS students are taught to use digital tools (ActiveLearn, School-Hub) responsibly and to communicate effectively in digital environments.