



SPOJENÁ ŠKOLA NOVOHRADSKÁ

Novohradská 3, 821 09 Bratislava, Slovakia
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LANGUAGE POLICY of the IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME at SPOJENÁ ŠKOLA NOVOHRADSKÁ

PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

Student's Language Profile

When enrolling a new student to our school we follow this procedure:

- identify student's language profile and background (application form, language of instruction entrance test, interview with the student and parents, school reports)
- consult the results with the administration and Languages Subject Group team to ensure we can actually offer appropriate provision to meet the student's language needs, including Language *ab initio* and thus enable him/her to meet the needs of the student.
- based on the student's preferences we organize the groups for the Group 1 language (Language A: Literature or Language A Language and Literature) and Group 2 language (Language B) course and consider any extra support needed, including offer to learn a language *ab initio*
- if Slovak or English is not the student's best language, we counsel with the parents and school administration the way student's mother tongue can be maintained and developed inside and outside the school
- we regularly check and review on student's progress

GROUP 1 LANGUAGE (LANGUAGE A)

Language A: literature is generally defined as the student's mother tongue (or the language he/she uses at home) or the language in which he/she has achieved the level of proficiency near to the level of a native speaker. In our school, the majority of students have Slovak background with either both parents Slovak or one parent of other nationality.

As our school is a state (public) school in Slovakia, Slovak can be also considered to be the language of host country. The language used predominantly at school and in the national curriculum classes is Slovak. At the IB programme we use both English and Slovak as working languages. The language of instruction is English (with the exception of Slovak, German, Spanish, French or any other language which are languages of instruction during these respective language classes).

In order to reflect the language environment inside and outside the school we usually offer at least two Group 1 language courses according the students' needs.



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The time allocations are as following:

IB Diploma Year 1 / Year 2

Slovak A: Literature HL (5x45 minute lessons per week)

Slovak A: Literature SL (3x45 minute lessons per week)

English A: Literature HL (5x45 minute lessons per week)

English A: Literature SL (3x45 minute lessons per week)

English A: English and literature HL (5x45 minute lessons per week)

English A: English and literature SL (3x45 minute lessons per week)

Other Language A: literature HL (5x45 minute lessons per week)

Other Language A: literature SL (3x45 minute lessons per week)

During the last 5 years there have been requirement for these: Russian A, Chinese A, Vietnamese A and Nepali A: literature self – taught SL.

Based on the requirements of Slovak Ministry of Education, all students in the international programmes have to attend Slovak language lessons. Due to this, we always organize extra Slovak lessons to students whose mother tongue is not Slovak and special attention is placed at their language development inside and outside of school.

Our students are also allowed to sit the Slovak national curriculum “maturita” school leaving exams from Slovak, Mathematics or English and English. Their school leaving report thus achieved allows the to study tuition free at the universities in the Czech Republic according to the bilateral agreements of the governments.

The aims, objectives and topics of Group 1 language can be found in the Language A: literature guide.

GROUP 2 LANGUAGE (LANGUAGE B – ENGLISH; LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION)

At our school the language of instruction is English. It is the language of international communication and the number of people of the country using it as a second language (ESL) has increased dramatically in the recent years.

In order to allow our students to be capable to stand the competition we have developed a coherent English B course with clear objectives and expectations for each year.



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The time allocations and levels are as following:

IBD Year 1 / Year 2

English B HL (5x45 minute lessons per week)

All subject teachers recognize that learning in second language may be a challenge for some students, especially if they enter the IB Diploma program from some national curriculum school, so the emphasis of the teaching is building language skills necessary for successful achievement of course objectives. This can be done through:

- Using visual materials
- Teaching vocabulary building, practising discussions and individual presentations
- Close cooperation of the subject group teachers
- Exposing students to literature in English

Students are encouraged to use the language of instruction whenever possible. Using English in and outside the classes creates inclusive atmosphere where all students, whether of Slovak or other national and language background have equal chance to express themselves and be part of the community.

In order to support and accelerate the progress of learning English, especially the written expression, all the students have two lessons of Writing per week.

The aims, objectives and topics of Language B group can be found in the Language B guide.

OTHER LANGUAGES B

When enrolling to IBD students are asked/have an opportunity to choose another language B, alongside English and they will follow this course till the end of their studies. Some of the students also take another language B as their seventh subject. At our school they rarely pick the option of Language *ab initio*, however they are encouraged to take on other language B course/s as extra-curricular activity.

Within a group of language B, there might be students at various levels. Our school has fully qualified teachers of German, Spanish and French currently on staff.

The time allocations and levels are as following:

IBD Year 1 / Year 2

Time allocation for HL: 5 x 45 minute lessons per week

Time allocation for SL: 3 x 45 minute lessons per week

German B HL / SL

Spanish B HL / SL

In the school year 2017/2018 we provide both German B and Spanish B.



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ADMISSION – LANGUAGE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

In order to enroll, students are expected to have previous knowledge of the language of instruction.

The entrance written examination in English tests the applicant's abilities in reading comprehension and his/her knowledge of grammar and lexis on the upper – intermediate level. The aim of the test is to verify that the applicant will be able to manage the demanding study of different subjects in English.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As far as the professional development is concerned Language A and B teachers are expected to follow the latest trends in language teaching and follow the current trends, especially online, and visit language teachers' forums, as well as the My IB.

Language teachers are expected to work collaboratively, share practices and regularly review the standards and expectations for each course. They are expected to meet on a regular basis within their subject groups.

Furthermore, the school encourages all teachers to continue in their language development and to attend language courses and in – school workshops.