



## Language Policy

### Mission Statement

Pestalozzi Education Centre aims to develop children into well-balanced and responsible adults through holistic approach of “Head, Heart and Hands”. We prepare our students to become the architects of their own future, make a significant impact to the world through our international curriculums.

### Our Ethos

#### Educating the Head

With a high academic achievement, Pestalozzi is always positioned in the top 10 private schools for ECZ examinations. With specialized and developed laboratories, an equipped library and computer lab, Pestalozzi Education Center promotes excellence through the introduction of the International Baccalaureate (IB) and the Cambridge IGCSE.

#### Educating the Heart

We are training the future citizens of the world who grow their passion by being caring and creating a safe and sustainable environment. Through our diversity, we develop great relationships and understanding of cultures and perspectives in the world.

#### Educating the Hands

We offer diverse options for sports, clubs and other extracurricular activities that teach life skills and promote students’ engagement. Our students are constantly engaging with meaningful matters that affect both their community and the world.

### Our Values

#### Integrity

We are trustworthy. We are reliable, authentic, and loyal. We do what we say we will do. We have the courage to do the right thing and always act in the best interests of the children.

#### Results Focused

We focus on achieving measurable results to ensure the mission is successful.

#### Family/Team

We work as a team and a family, achieving more collectively than individually.

#### Unity from Diversity

We respect and value people from all backgrounds and believe differences should be celebrated as we focus on our shared mission and how much we have in common.

#### Creativity

We are open to new ideas and take considered risks to develop sustainable solutions.

#### Accountability

We are careful stewards of our resources, being sure they are used responsibly and efficiently, and hold ourselves accountable to our supporters and partners, especially the children.

#### Compassion

We empathize with, help and care for those around us.

## Philosophy

Although English is the official language of Zambia, more than 70 local languages and dialects are spoken throughout the country. The languages predominantly spoken are Chinyanja (also pronounced as Nyanja,), Tonga, Bemba, Luvale, Kaonde and Lozi. **Bemba** and **chinyanja** are the most widely spoken language in the capital city, Lusaka and across the region's Copperbelt.

We believe that the language used by teachers and students determines what is learned and how learning takes place. We also believe that engaged students are motivated for language learning and have the best chance of achieving full communicative competence across the broad spectrum of language skills. To that end, all teachers at PEC are responsible for supporting language acquisition and ensuring that all students use the English Language responsibly while providing sufficient exposure to mother tongue.

English is the language of instruction at Pestalozzi Education Centre. However, we honour and recognize that students entering PEC may come from local language speaking homes and schools. We value inclusion and equity of access for the students whose mother tongue is not English, and we believe that these students should have the opportunity to continue in their mother tongue development throughout their school experience whilst gaining experience in English language. We aim to support those students whose mother tongue is not English.

All students entering PEC are required to complete an English Language Assessment to ensure that the student can access the curriculum delivered in English and to determine the level of support needed. We aim to work collaboratively with parents in the hopes of improving the academic performance of students, operating out of a posture of mutual respect of others' cultures and cultural practices.

## School Language Profile

The majority of PEC students are English language speakers. These students can be characterized as:

- Having functional **English** language experience
- Having limited **English** language experience
- Bilingual: speak their mother tongue as well as **English**.

In addition to the above, we have speakers of other languages [non English]. These students are provided additional supports to access the English language. Students who are native speakers of other languages are encouraged upon starting their academic programme to select a native language course of study where ever possible, eg. for national curriculum, which in most cases is **Chinyanja**. Students in grades 6-12 are offered additional English language support, as determined by periodic assessments.

## Language of Instruction

The language of instruction is English for all subjects with the exception of our language B classes where instruction is delivered in Bemba or French.

## Admissions

During Admissions testing, students are assessed on their ability to read, write, speak and listen to English. Only those who are judged to have the potential to succeed within the relevant section of the school can be offered places.

## Professional development related to English

Whenever possible, only teachers who are experienced in working with bilingual [English/Chinyanja] students are recruited. But guidance on how students can be best supported in language development is provided by the teachers with specialist knowledge.

## Language Support

To supplement work in classes, students with specific linguistic needs will be offered extra language tuition, including:

- One-to-one lessons for students with poor English
- After-school classes for students struggling with English
- Holiday time courses in English

## English Language Testing

All students are assessed on their abilities in English throughout the academic year. Formative assessment is a regular feature of classes and further assessment is achieved through monthly testing.

In addition, the school will arrange standardized English testing each year so that students and parents are informed about the students' progress in relation to objective standards. This will be done through the use of Cambridge English.

## Languages currently offered at PEC

- English Language
- French as Second Language
- Chinyanja

## Mother Tongue Support

We recognize the importance of students' home languages and promote bi-literacy in our school. Our teachers emphasize the use of multicultural literature and cultural responsiveness in their interactions with students.

Students whose mother tongue is not English are screened by a language proficiency test. Students receive additional support as determined by the student support services team. Resources available to these students include tutoring during the school day and after school, use of language dictionaries and translated written texts.

Parents of students of other languages are often encouraged to hire a translator/tutor to work with the school in providing the continuation of programmes in the home.

The school offers **Chinyanja** as second language subject in grades 5 through 7 in the National curriculum offered by ECZ.

## **Language Pathway to DP**

The School has begun to offer French as a second language across all grades. French will be offered as a Foreign Language in IGCSE and Ab-Initio in IBDP.

The school will strive to offer Language B – French in future. This decision will be taken keeping in view the maturity of the subject, schools preparedness and acceptance by parental body.

## **Responsibilities and Review**

The Head of school is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

The Head of school is also responsible for periodic review of the policy after two years after the policy was drafted or last amended.

*Reviewed on: June , 2020*

*Next proposed Review: June 2022*

\*\*\*\*End of Document\*\*\*\*