

# Language Policy

**Last Updated May 2022**

Enko Riverside School provides English-medium education within a lusophone environment. Most students, parents and staff have Portuguese as their first language.

The school recognizes the value of both languages – and of any other languages spoken within our community. Students must appreciate the need to communicate effectively in Portuguese. But, as English is commonly the weaker language for students and is needed for academic work, the use of English is promoted differently from the further development of abilities in Portuguese or other mother--tongues.

Students' acquisition of English is supported by all teachers and administrative staff.

The school prints information in the following languages:

- English for students.
- English for staff – with translation available for the small number who are unfamiliar with English.
- Bilingually (English & Portuguese) for parents.
- Bilingually (English & Portuguese) for marketing materials.

In lessons, students are expected to operate in English in all classes except for those of Portuguese or any other language subjects and Physical Education.

Those teaching through the medium of English must be sensitive to the requirements of developing bilinguals and may use Portuguese or allow students to explain concepts to each other in Portuguese language on occasions; but this should be on a need basis.

Out of lessons, but within school, students are expected to use English when talking with teachers and are encouraged to use English whilst interacting with each other and with administrative staff. It is recognised, however, that some may find this difficult, and it is perfectly natural for them to want to communicate in Portuguese language. The school hopes and expects that students' willingness and ability to use English in informal contexts will increase in line with their confidence with the language.

## **Admissions**

During Admissions testing, students are assessed on reading, writing and speaking in English.

Only those who are judged to have the potential to succeed within the relevant section of the school (Foundation Course, IGCSE Course, IBDP Course) can be offered places.

To facilitate the entry of students into the school, the school will offer English lessons (for those whose English is weak).

## **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 Portuguese;
- After-school classes for students struggling with English;
- Holiday time courses in English.

## **Language development related to English**

Whenever possible, the school recruits teachers who are experienced in working with bilingual students. But guidance on how students can be best supported in language development is provided by the teachers with specialist knowledge.<sup>1</sup>

## **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.

## **Examination courses in languages**

For IGCSEs, most students will be prepared for and registered for **Portuguese as a First Language**.<sup>2</sup> A few students may be entered for **French as a Foreign Language**.<sup>3</sup>

For the IBDP, almost all students will be registered for **Portuguese A** (Portuguese A: Language and Literature HL or SL). Exceptionally, a few students may be prepared for **Portuguese B** (HL or SL).<sup>4</sup>

For IGCSEs, students may be considered for the **English as a First Language** examination or for that of **English as Second Language**. In determining, which is most appropriate for each student, the school will take into account:

- The record of the student's performances on school based assessments of English;
- The student's performance in relation to Cambridge English;
- The teacher's advice (based on his diagnostic tests);

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<sup>1</sup>

This includes the English language teachers. But, the Portuguese teachers also contribute as they are highly experienced in teaching Portuguese language in Anglophone environments.

<sup>2</sup>This is offered under conditions of students not having learnt Portuguese in their previous levels of their studies.

<sup>3</sup>Students entered for this exam must be citizens of a non-lusophone country or those who have been out of a lusophone country for almost all of their formal education.

<sup>4</sup>

This will only happen for students who have not studied through the medium of Portuguese.

- The student's post-exam ambitions<sup>5</sup>;

For the IB DP, students may be considered for an **English A** course (HL or SL) or for **English B** (HL or SL). In determining, which is most appropriate for each student, the school will take into account:

- Whether the student has another Language A<sup>6</sup>;
- The record of the student's performances on school-based assessments of English.
- The student's performance in IGCSEs.
- The teacher's advice (based on his diagnostic test(s)).
- The student's post-exam ambitions<sup>7</sup>;

Within the IB DP, students with a mother-tongue other than Portuguese or English will be encouraged to follow a **Self-taught Language A: Literature SL** course in that language.

IB DP students may also have the opportunity to study another language (e.g., **Spanish ab initio**<sup>8</sup> or **French ab initio**) as part of the Diploma programme.

### **Responsibilities**

The Head of school, in concert with the Pedagogical leadership team is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

The Head of school is also responsible for the review of the policy ( as and whenever necessary).

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<sup>5</sup> Students aiming for English A on the IB DP might, for example, be entered for English as a First Language even if their performance on previous assessments suggested that this will be particularly challenging.

<sup>6</sup>As part of the IB DP, all students must study at least one Language A course.

<sup>7</sup>

The main consideration will be the student's ambitions for tertiary education. Do those ambitions require English A? Would English A help those ambitions?

<sup>8</sup>Spanish ab initio is only offered on Pamoja Education (online) with an assistant of an Enko Riverside International School.