

## Zhuhai International School MYP Language Policy

### Philosophy

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At Zhuhai International School we believe that enrichment through language offers our students the necessary tools of communication and capacity building to enable them to truly be a global citizen of the world. We accept and openly encourage a diverse range of languages spoken in our school, and believe that the development of intercultural awareness is best heightened by learning additional languages to that of students' mother tongue. We believe that this approach also supports the practical needs of the globally mobile in our community.

### Language of Instruction

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At ZIS English is the language of instruction at all year levels. Chinese Mandarin is offered as the second language in Early Learning and the Primary Years programme (PYP).

Chinese may be spoken by Chinese staff as a means to support mother tongue Chinese Mandarin speakers in both primary and secondary classrooms. There are times when it may also be used to support *The Program of Inquiry* in the PYP . In the Middle Years Programme (MYP), Chinese is offered to all students. Other languages are also offered in the Secondary school via distance/online learning. Examples of languages offered in this mode are, German, French, Korean and Japanese. Other languages may be offered by request. This online learning option is to suit the requirements of students whose families intend to stay for only one contract of work and wish for continuity of study in either their mother tongue or second language.

In the Diploma Programme (DP), English and Mandarin are the primary choices for Group 1 and 2 (Languages A and B), however individual student needs for alternative languages can be investigated. We teach two languages to any one student, never three.

### Admission process

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All students are admitted regardless of the level of English spoken in all Year levels up to and including Year 9. All students who speak English as an additional language will be required to take the *Zhuhai International English Proficiency Test* at the time of enrolment.

Students who pass the Proficiency Test will be admitted to normal classes and would be placed in either Language A English or Language B English.

Students who achieve low scores in the *Zhuhai International English Proficiency Test* will be placed in *Intensive English* until they gain the required proficiency to allow them to be taught in the mainstream classes in a differentiated program. .

For all students placement into Language A and B classes is done through in-depth discussion from former Language A and B teachers, Year 6 PYP teachers and the

MYP coordinator and Language B coordinator. The Language B coordinator liaises with all the Chinese Language B teachers to formulate specific phases of Language B Chinese classes.

**Mother-tongue support:** Mother tongue is encouraged and acknowledged in the classroom. When necessary students are encouraged to “think in their own language” and write ideas within brainstorm in their own language if they wish.

- Parents are provided with the contact details of language support networks available in the Zhuhai community
- Mother tongue groups are also able to use the school facilities to run mother tongue lessons after school hours.
- Mother tongue hour (PYP - once per week, MYP - once every 2 weeks) where students have the opportunity to discuss and share their thoughts on their learning in their own language. These sessions can be conducted by parents, United International College language teachers, and broader community members or organisations.
- Examples where mother tongue development are also seen and supported in class rooms, the playground, school-wide events (such as Global Child Day, Arts Week), group work and assemblies
- School library supports a variety of texts in different languages

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**Language profiles: ( Needs updating)**

As at 31 January 2012 English is the mother tongue of 39% of the students currently enrolled in MYP. Chinese Mandarin is the mother tongue of 18% of students and Korean 16%. More than 75% of secondary students at ZIS are proficient in English enabling them to select Language A English.

<b>ZIS MYP Language Profile as at 31/01/2012. (Total Number of students 38)</b>				
Language Spoken	Mother Tongue- Total Number of Students	Mother Tongue- Percentage of Total	Total students who speak/read/write each language proficiently. (Suitable as Language A selection)	Percentage students who speak each language proficiently. ( Language A selection)
English	15	39	30	77

Chinese Mandarin	7	18	9	24
Chinese Cantonese	2	5		
Korean	6	16		
Japanese	3	8		
French	2	5		
German	2	5		
Russian	1	2.6		

### **MYP-specific policies and approaches:**

#### **Admissions policy for MYP:**

Students in Years 7-9 who score below Level 2 in the ZIS English Proficiency Test will be placed in a separate class and given an intensive English Program for a maximum of 8 weeks. These students may join normal timetabled classes upon achieving a Level 2 standard or upon completion of the allotted intensive time. If Level 2 proficiency has not been reached within the Intensive program the student is expected to continue to take the proficiency test until this is reached. The arrangements for this will be negotiated with the MYP Coordinator and Secondary principal.

Through teacher professional judgement, based on increasing proficiency and commitment, some intensive English students may be partially introduced to the normal ZIS secondary program in the subject at some stage during the intensive program. Mathematics and The Arts are examples.

#### **MYP Language A**

All ZIS students must in the final three years of MYP have at least one Language A as per IB requirements for the last year of the program.

Students who are non-Chinese will take English as their Language A option with Chinese Mandarin as their Language B option.

Students who speak Chinese Mandarin as their mother tongue will take Chinese Mandarin as their Language A option and if proficient Language A English also.

In Years 7 and 8 we offer two English Language A classes; Language A English Core and Language A English Extended. Students from both year levels are grouped according to their English ability and interest in this subject. Criteria for the extension class is to have a reading age of 13 and above according to *The Prose Reading Observation* running records and according to a written sample and a survey focused on literacy interest level.

#### **MYP Language B**

ZIS has two language B options, English and Chinese. For the majority of children at ZIS, the obvious Language B choice is Chinese Mandarin.

The students are grouped into 5 phases for Language B-Beginners through to students who are bordering on fluency in the language. The students are grouped according to testing taken by the Chinese

French has also been added as a further Language B option. However the following criteria are required before a student may enter this class.

**Admission to French class.**

- The parents have indicated that the student will be leaving the school in the following year or two.
- At the student's next school French will be a required course option.
- The student must have at least tried Chinese as a Language B for an extended period of time. Extended to be determined by the Secondary Principal and MYP coordinator.