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Embassy International School Language Policy

The working language of the school is English. All documents, meetings, parent and pupil communication, newsletters and lessons will be conducted in English.

The first exception to this is Polish language lessons for native speakers of Polish and Polish citizens, as required by the Polish Ministry for Education (MEN). Furthermore, in compliance with MEN regulations, lessons which are legally required by the basic national curriculum for Polish citizens in Poland will have access to the core material which is taught in English with supporting materials in Polish translation through the provision of either a MEN registered teacher during the lessons led in English, or through additional lessons summarising the content from the week's work (separate/additional lesson model).

The second exception is language lessons, which are usually, though not exclusively, taught in the destination/target language.

The third exception is where there are special moments relating to national traditions (including End of Polish School Year, Wigilia). These will be conducted fully bi-lingually and always preceded by a speech contextualising national traditions, home languages, respect for these concepts, and inclusion. The spirit of this intent is to continue to promote our common language and inclusion, which are fundamental and essential to the school's essential character, and also promote respect (a fundamental core value) of traditional practices.

At all times pupils and teachers are required to speak the common, working language of school (English) in order to promote its use, and to ensure that the environment is inclusive. Particularly sensitivity is required when in mixed company. This relates to the call for decorum in behaviour policy, relates to the equality and diversity policy and anti-bullying policy and should violations occur, in accordance with behaviour policy, positive assertion of the common language as a tool for inclusion will be the approach taken.

At no time will school punish children for using home languages, and home languages will be respected and honoured, but everyone needs to promote the common language in common spaces and when in mixed company. Exclusion of individuals in our community is subject to sanction as per appropriate policies.

As a school we shall strive to support native language needs, where reasonably possible.

This will take the form of individual programmes of learning and will be agreed in writing upon entry to the school, signed by the Head of School, and the parents and will be subject to regular review. Individual programmes of support for native language may be subject to additional cost. This information will be included in the agreement made between school and the parents.

It should be recognised that it may not be possible to fulfil all language requirements, but that every reasonable effort will be made to do so.

Dr Lindsay Davidson, Head of School
Embassy International School
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