

**Post Oak Academy
Primary Years Programme
Language Policy**

Philosophy

Language is a medium through which learning occurs and is an essential element to all children's intellectual, social and emotional development. It is our philosophy to promote language by... learning language itself, learning about language and learning through language.

Language is a medium of inquiry. Language plays an essential role in all learning areas. Language is seen as involving learning language itself, learning about language and learning through language connecting elements across the curriculum.

Beliefs and Values

The following beliefs about language exist at Post Oak Academy.

- All teachers are teachers of language.
- Language competency directly relates to a students' ability to communicate.
- No particular language has more value than any other.
- The school plays a crucial role in helping students develop international perspectives and intercultural awareness through the use of language.
- The school has a responsibility to ensure that students have a solid base in their home language or mother tongue, and that they have at least one language in which they are capable of thinking at a higher conceptual level.
- Students must be assisted to develop competency across the language domains of oral communication (listening and speaking), written communication (reading and writing) and visual communication (viewing and presenting).

Particular value is placed on:

- Learning language, learning about language and learning through language.
- The role that language plays in defining, expressing and developing a person's identity, and therefore its importance in ensuring cultural, social and emotional well-being.
- Flexibility within and between languages.
- The importance of language as a medium for learning across the curriculum and its importance as a connector between different disciplines.
- The various forms that language takes, including the symbol systems by which it is recorded.

Practices

The school staff believes language plays a crucial role in education. Therefore, we offer an immersion pathway for language acquisition.

Dual Language Immersion Pathway

For the PYP:

Chinese/English Immersion is a 50/50 immersion experience. Equal emphasis is placed on both languages in terms of languages of instruction within transdisciplinary units of inquiry. In this program, students spend half of their day in an eastern style classroom with the language of instruction being (Simplified) Mandarin Chinese and the other half in a western style classroom with English as the language of instruction.

For the MYP:

The school implements Language B based on subject matter. Students receive 100% instruction of content through Mandarin in Mathematics and Chinese Language Arts. This is approximately 60% of their school day. In addition, the students receive 75% instruction of content through Mandarin in Individuals and Societies.

Students are actively encouraged to speak using the target language. Through a planned immersion environment, they are subject to differentiated instruction at an age appropriate academic standard. Students with limited Chinese are supported and their instruction is scaffold as they become independent in a Chinese language environment. Many aspects of the environment, including classroom walls, teaching materials, textbooks and teaching resources are intended to provide rich, varied and stimulating English and Chinese language environments.

English Language Support

The school district provides English Language Learner (ELL) support for all identified students. The school acknowledges that all students need some degree of English language support, classroom teachers accommodate as needed. Organizing tasks and resources in general education classes provide differentiated instruction in order to ensure content and concepts are comprehensible for all learners.

Other Languages

The school district obtains information about the student's language profile when they enter the district and shares it with the individual schools within the district. Post Oak keeps track of the range of languages that are represented amongst the student population. For students who require language assistance, bilingual services through the district's bilingual department and through the city's refugee services department are made available.