



THAMESVIEW SCHOOL

**Thong Lane, Gravesend,
Kent DA12 4LF**

Language Policy

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THAMESVIEW SCHOOL LANGUAGE POLICY

IBO MISSION STATEMENT

The International Baccalaureate Organisation aims to develop enquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through international understanding and respect.

To this end, the IBO works with schools, Government and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

PHILOSOPHY

Our language policy recognises that language and communication form the basis of all learning and personal development. As such, Thamesview School provides second-language teaching and mother-tongue language support that meet the needs of students and reflect the principles of the IB programme.

LANGUAGE PROFILE OF THAMESVIEW SCHOOL

The majority of students at Thamesview School speak English which is their mother tongue. 8% of our students have English as an additional language. Students with EAL will be given opportunities to celebrate their home language and share their home culture. Where possible, EAL students will have the opportunity to gain a qualification in their own language.

English language is the language of instruction at Thamesview School and English, as a subject, is taught through language and literature from Year 7 to Year 11 (KS3 and KS4).

Small group and additional extra intervention support is given to students who struggle with aspects of the English language both English speakers as their main language or EAL students.

Language learning and teaching is integral to the staff CPD programme, including training in practices to support EAL students and provide inclusion equity of access for all learners including EAL students.

English language and literature is taught by specialist English teachers but Thamesview School recognises that language is central to all learning and therefore all teachers are, in practice, language teachers with responsibility in facilitating communication.

- a) Teachers are accountable for teaching the vocabulary of their respective curriculums – the teacher is the provider of the common language for facilitating learning in that subject.
- b) Teachers are expected to have students reading and writing across each area of the curriculum.
- c) A literacy coordinator (an AHT) is responsible for promoting the use of literacy across all aspects of the curriculum and in every classroom.
- d) Annual professional development is provided for all staff on the development and promotion of literacy across the curriculum.

At Thamesview School we believe that the foundation for all learning is language. Language is the primary means of communication and is fundamental to lifelong learning. In order for students to be successful learners, they must be able to use language appropriately, accurately and confidently both orally and in writing in a variety of contexts for a variety of purposes. Language enables students to become inquirers as well as develop critical thinking and social skills. Furthermore, language proficiency enables students to acquire knowledge related to all areas of the curriculum framework. Language acquisition is a life-long process.

The mission is to develop lifelong 21st century learners who meet the demands of a global society. In partnership with parents, students, teachers, and community members, Thamesview School will provide instruction that encourages both diversity and unity, develops integrity and character, and promotes initiative and collegiality among our students. Therefore, we understand that students must become both culturally and linguistically proficient in a second language. Accordingly, language learning is not limited only to the acquisition of a second language, but also includes the importance of cultural understanding and sensitivity, and fosters international understanding.

All students at Key Stage 3 study a modern foreign language. Most pupils study French as their first foreign language whilst a small number study Spanish instead. As well as learning the foundation of the additional language in preparation for a GCSE course, students are able to celebrate the cultural diversity of the country they study.

Students are encouraged to take French or Spanish as a GCSE and increasing numbers are taking this option. We also provide many EAL pupils with the opportunity to gain a qualification in their home language with considerable success.

In year 12 all students will take the International Baccalaureate Careers Related Programme and learn an additional language alongside examined study. Italian will be taught to all students and students will learn about cultural diversity and cultivate internationalism alongside learning basic Italian speaking.

SUPPORT PROVIDED

The school has mechanisms in place for identifying and supporting students who are experiencing difficulties with their use or study of English (see EAL Policy). Diagnostic testing, staff referral and student self referral are methods by which individual support requirements can be ascertained and agreed.

Additional learning support is available to students via the Learning Domain. One to one support is available which can be easily accessed by all students with support and guidance from EAL staff.

International Baccalaureate students for whom English is not their first language will be offered appropriate options in relation to the language element of their programme so that the course is fully accessible. International Baccalaureate students will be required to take a language development element during the core; at Thamesview School we will be studying Italian as part of our Language Development.

LANGUAGE POLICY

This policy was agreed and adopted at a Governors' Meeting held on

_____ (*date*)

Signed: _____ (Governor)

Signed: _____ (Headteacher)

The policy will be formally reviewed in _____ (*date*)