



CAMBRIDGE LANGUAGE POLICY

1. Introduction

Village International Academy is committed to providing a robust language policy aligned with the Cambridge International Education framework. This document outlines the principles, objectives, and implementation strategies for language instruction at our school.

2. Language Learning Objectives

- To develop proficiency in English (the primary medium of instruction).
- To foster bilingualism or multilingualism by offering additional language options.
- To enhance students' language skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- To cultivate an appreciation for linguistic and cultural diversity.
- To prepare students for academic and professional opportunities requiring strong language skills.

3. Language of Instruction

English is the primary language of instruction across all subjects at Village International Academy. It serves as the medium through which students are taught and assessed. Ensuring proficiency in English is essential for academic success and global competencies.

4. Additional Language Offerings

We recognise the importance of linguistic diversity and offer a range of additional languages to enhance our students' global outlook and communication skills. The languages offered include:

- **Mandatory Second Language:** All students must study Afrikaans up to the IGCSE level at Village International Academy. This requirement stems from the USAF regulations, which mandate attainment of the Afrikaans IGCSE level for exemptions into South African universities.
- **Third Language Option:** In the foundation stage, all students must learn French in their language curriculum. This initiative aims to give students a multilingual foundation and enhance their linguistic skills.

5. Language Support Programmes

To support language development, we offer specialised programmes and resources:

- **Language Enrichment Programmes:** Additional language classes and workshops are offered to strengthen language skills beyond the regular curriculum.
- **Individualised Support:** Personalised support through tutoring and targeted interventions for students needing extra help in language acquisition.
- **Special Assessment Considerations:** Students requiring examination concessions, such as extra time, scribes, or other forms of support, may be referred to an educational psychologist or speech therapist for assessment. This assessment will determine the accommodations that best support these students during examinations and academic assessments.

6. Teaching and Learning Strategies

- **Integrative Approach:** Language instruction is embedded across the curriculum to promote language learning in various contexts.
- **Interactive Methods:** To enhance language skills, use interactive teaching methods, such as group discussions, debates, presentations, and role-playing.
- **Use of Technology:** Incorporation of digital tools and language learning software to provide interactive and engaging language practice.
- **Cultural Immersion:** Activities and projects that expose students to the cultural contexts of the languages they study, enhancing their linguistic and cultural competencies.

7. Assessment and Reporting

- **Formative Assessment:** Ongoing assessment of language skills through quizzes, assignments, and classroom activities to monitor progress and provide feedback.
- **Summative Assessment:** Formal assessments and examinations to evaluate language proficiency and achievement at the end of each semester.
- **Cambridge Language Examinations:** Preparation for and participation in Cambridge language examinations to provide internationally recognised language proficiency certification.

8. Professional Development

- **Teacher Training:** Ongoing professional development for language teachers to stay updated with the latest language teaching methodologies and Cambridge curriculum changes.
- **Collaboration:** Encouraging language teachers to collaborate, share best practices, and develop innovative teaching strategies.

9. Parental Involvement

- **Communication:** Regular updates to parents about their children's language progress and ways they can support language learning at home.
- **Workshops:** Organising workshops and informational sessions for parents on the importance of multilingualism and strategies to support their children's language development.

10. Continuous Improvement

- **Review and Updates:** The language policy is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it meets the evolving needs of our students and aligns with Cambridge International standards.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Gathering feedback from students, parents, and teachers to identify areas for improvement and implement necessary changes.

11. Conclusion

Village International Academy fosters linguistic proficiency and cultural awareness through a comprehensive language policy. By promoting excellence in language learning, we aim to empower our students to excel academically and thrive in a global society.

