



Children's Academy

International School

Language Policy

IB Mission Statement

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

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations 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. (International Baccalaureate Organization, 2014)

Children's Academy Group of Schools Mission and Vision

Children's Academy Group of Schools aims at providing a progressive learning environment that leads to joyful learning along with holistic development. Our primary endeavour is to create passionate students who are lifelong learners, capable of accepting the dynamic challenges of the new world order.

We aim to provide quality education which is rooted in tradition while remaining futuristic in vision. (Children's Academy Group of Schools, n.d.)

IB Learner Profile

As per the IB Programme Standards and Practices, (International Baccalaureate Organization, 2014), the IB aims to develop learners who are:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable



Children's Academy

International School

- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

Philosophy

We believe that languages are not only a means of communication but also acts as a medium to understand diverse cultures. We understand that a teacher plays a pivotal role in enabling students to understand and appreciate cultures therefore every teacher is a language teacher.

The Language Policy has been developed with the help of members of Steering Committee comprising the IBCP Coordinator, Head of School, Language Development Teacher, the librarian, a student representative (*guidelines for developing school language policy, page number 2)

Student and teacher language

Based in the cosmopolitan city of Mumbai, the school has students from diverse cultural and language backgrounds. Gujarati and Marathi are two of the predominant languages spoken by students. Hindi, being one of the official languages of India, is also spoken by students quite often. As English is the medium of instruction at the Children's Academy Group of Schools, students are encouraged to communicate in English while on campus. This encourages students to not just improve their language skills, but also maintains uniformity without any member of the student corp feeling left out.



Children's Academy

International School

Similarly, the teachers of the Academy are from all over the country belonging to diverse cultural and language backgrounds.

Cultural diversity

The diversity in culture of all members of the Academy is showcased in the various occasions and festivals celebrated at the regional, national, and international levels. The school observes and celebrates occasions and festivals celebrated at the regional, national and international levels. The school along with its other K-10 schools:

- Observes important days pertaining to each calendar year
 - This includes but is not limited to International Yoga Day, Raksha Bandhan Celebration, Independence Day, Parsi New year Celebration, Gokulashtami Celebration etc.
 - Introducing students of the Academy to various cultures from an early age ensures a knowledgeable, and empathetic student corp
 - Each of these days is celebrated with a view to understand the various cultures that make up the country and the world and to help foster understanding and appreciation for the diverse cultures
- Organises various speech and drama activities like elocution, declamation, debates, one act plays, mono acts and street plays in English, Hindi, and Marathi
 - These activities take place throughout the year to cover various topics such as anti-drug usage, anti-pollution etc.
- Students are encouraged to write poems, short stories and other articles in languages apart from English for the school magazine
- Local language development
 - Marathi, being the state language of Maharashtra where the Children's Academy Group of Schools is established, is taught to all students till Grade 8.



Children's Academy

International School

- Hindi is taught to all students till Grade 10. This ensures that all students of the Children's Academy Group of Schools are well versed with not just both of the official languages of India, but are also well versed with the official states language of the state in which they are based
- Openness to working in mother tongue
- Support for mother tongue
 - How school helps to root in culture
 - Different activities in different languages
 - Library for extra language

A unique feature of the Children's Academy Group of Schools is what is known as the 'State Darshans'. These state darshans occur biennially. The aim of these programmes is to exhibit the rich cultural heritage of India. Every 2 years, a state is picked by the Management of the Academy. Activities are planned throughout the year to teach students about the state in question. The school building is decorated with historical figures from that particular Indian state detailing their accomplishments as well as the history of the state. The language and culture of the state is displayed and showcased throughout the school year. The students of the Academy are taken to the state that is being showcased during the Diwali Vacation. The State Darshan culminates in a two-day event which includes music, dance, plays, exhibition of artefacts and regional attire, and cuisines of that state.

Student language assistance programmes for language of instruction

- Most of the students joining Children's Academy International school are alumni of the Children's Academy Group of Schools and hence are expected to be comfortable with the usage of English language
- Students joining Children's Academy International school from outside the Children's Academy Group of Schools will be given a baseline test which will provide an understanding of the child's comfort level with the English language



Children's Academy

International School

- In case there appears to be a significant gap in learning, the language development teacher will create an after school plan to help the student in need
- Every teacher is a language teacher- There will be aspects of Economics that compares the Indian context to the international context. There will be constant monitoring of the students' understanding and in the case that a student is found to be struggling with the language, the Language development teacher will provide the necessary support
- Students can refer to at any time for self-improvement. The librarian will be available for recommendations and any other help necessary.
- Based on the performance of students in the formative assessments and class room interactions, extra classes will be offered in case students require additional help.
- It is mandatory for students to study Marathi upto Grade 8.

Strategies to improve implementation of the language policy

- All teachers are Language teachers and each teacher of the Academy will take it upon themselves to ensure that students of the Academy are aware of command terms and all teachers will look to promote literacy in the subject. For eg. Economics teacher talking about command terms used in the field etc.
- Litventure is a Book and Media Festival conducted every year by Children's Academy Group of Schools and the organization, For Authors By Authors. Past participants include famous authors such as Anirban Bhattacharya, Neil D'Silva, Archana Sarat, Neelam Kumar and more.

Language Development Core

- The main language covered during Language Development will be English. As English is the Lingua Franca and one of the two official languages in India, it is of utmost importance for students to be comfortable in the language especially in regards to the Career Related Subject of their choice.



Children's Academy

International School

- With a view to further the learning and connect it, English Language B will be taught at CAIS.
- Children's Academy Group of Schools boasts of a large teacher corp of Hindi and Marathi teachers. Any student, based on their requirements and needs, will be allowed to choose Hindi or Marathi as a Language Development class and a teacher from the Hindi or Marathi department will be deputed under the guidance of the Language Development Coordinator to work with the student.
- Students will also be made aware of resources like Pamoja and various other online learning platforms where students can learn a language of their choice as per their needs and requirements.
- Assessments will include but not be limited to- writing a journal, writing book reviews, keeping a log of various media consumed in the target language and reviewing the same (Focus of the same will be on classic media in the target language), writing and publishing circulars of high enough quality that can be utilised by the school, teaching students from lower grades etc.
- Students will maintain a portfolio tracking their progress. The Language Development teacher will check the progress of students and discuss their progress. The students have to ensure that the portfolio is completed as per the school norms.

Role of library in the school

- The library plays a crucial role in developing language and cultural knowledge of the students.
- The library for Children's Academy International is well stocked with books encompassing several genres as well as resource books in multiple languages.
- There are 2981 books under the category of Fiction in English Language and 385 books in English reference. We have 425 Reference books in general.
- In terms of local languages, we have 179 books in Hindi fiction while also having 219 books regarding Hindi Grammar and Literature. We also have 146



Children's Academy

International School

books in Marathi fiction while also having 185 books regarding Marathi Grammar and Literature.

- We also have 14 books in the ancient language of Sanskrit that the students have access to.
- As students in the IBCP Programme will require further knowledge to increase their skills, there are 111 books on Professional development in the school library.
- Students can refer to the books for self-improvement. The librarian will be available for recommendations and any other necessary help.
- Moreover, students have access to the online library where students have access to innumerable books
 - <https://ndl.iitkgp.ac.in/homestudy/school>
 - <https://mintbook.com/mintbook-digital-library>
 - Open Library
 - Project Gutenberg
 - The Internet Archive
 - Google Books
 - Splainer.in
- Children's Academy International School has signed up with Canva to provide Canva for Education for free to all students of the Academy in order to help them with content creation.
- The librarian will be available for recommendations and any other help necessary.
- Multimedia
 - Mubi
 - Netflix
 - YouTube
- Resources are available in the library to assist in English learning as well as Indian learning language



Children's Academy

International School

Role of Parents

- At CAGS, we find parent participation to be crucial to student success
- Parents are encouraged to participate in the teaching-learning process to the best of their ability especially when it comes to the context of culture.
- Parents, based on their interests and skills, are requested to contact the school at the start of the school year and offer their expertise taking the school calendar and functions into account.

Life Skill Programmes

- The life skills programme consists of three modules for each class from Grades VI to IX.
- Due to paucity of time, only two sessions are conducted for Grade X.
- Each session is of a one-hour duration and is conducted by the Counsellor and Remedial Educator, with the aid of PowerPoint presentations, discussions and videos. The topics are decided before the new academic session begins in a joint meeting of the Counsellors, Special Educators and Outsourced faculty of the three branches along with subject expert.
- Three modules of puberty program are conducted during the year for Grade VI and VII.
- Grades I-V undergo four Life Skill sessions by way of short animated films which, altogether which are conducted by subject expert.

Policy review section

- The Language Policy will be reviewed annually. Head of School, School Administrator, Staff of CAIS, Counsellor, CP Coordinator will be part of the discussion. The students and the parents will be kept informed in case of any revision.



Children's Academy

International School

References

Children's Academy Group of Schools. (n.d.). Children's Academy: Top ICSE Schools in Kandivali, Malad, Mumbai. Retrieved September 11, 2022, from <https://www.childrens-academy.in/>

International Baccalaureate Organization. (2014, January 1). *Programme standards and practices*. International Baccalaureate. Retrieved September 11, 2022, from <https://www.ibo.org/globalassets/new-structure/become-an-ib-school/pdfs/programme-standards-and-practices-en.pdf>