



An IB World School



Language Policy

Language Definition

Language at Island Academy refers to the understanding and interpretation of written, oral and visual information across the curriculum and in all subjects. As such, Island Academy recognizes that students need to develop the ability to communicate in a range of contexts, and for a range of purposes. They also need to develop skills in using subject-specific language, and manipulating different forms of writing to suit a range of academic purposes across the curriculum.

Language Profile

Standard English is the official language of Antigua, and the language of instruction at Island Academy. Around 60% of our students are Antiguan and native English speakers. The remaining 40% are made up of predominantly English, European and Native American students who also have English as their mother tongue.

However we do have a minority of students from Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Many of our students are bi- and even multi-lingual. Most of our Antiguan students also speak a rich Creole (known locally as dialect) derived from African, English and French.

English fluency and growth is promoted to students through literature, creative arts, theatre, debating, public speaking, mock trials, music, IB and other projects, as well as other means. Students are encouraged and given opportunities to use their language skills to pursue personal interests and expression in all subjects, and in other creative or innovative ways.

Language Philosophy

Being fluent in the language of learning empowers the student to understand and interpret ideas, attitudes and feelings. It gives the student the capacity to solve problems, think critically, and act creatively. It gives the student the ability to express all of these points in class discussions, debates, assignments, and assessments, and throughout all social interaction within the school, and outside.

English language learning takes place at Island Academy across all disciplines, rather than just in one set class at a specific time. Every teacher models excellent English usage that emphasizes clear and concise communication. Teachers support the development of English language skills in their students, and give feedback and corrections as appropriate.

Students at Island Academy have opportunities to use language to respond both creatively and analytically to the world around them, to express their own world-view, and develop an informed understanding of alternative world-views. As language teachers, all teachers are engaged in the development of student knowledge about language, and the use of language, so that students can express their ideas and opinions.

Language at Island Academy is inclusive. It is never used to exclude any student, or group of students.

Visitors and Exchanges

Island Academy accepts students who are not fluent in English, but meet other application requirements. In this case, the HOS may work out a modified plan of study with the parents and cooperating teachers, as appropriate, and determine if additional services, either in-house or privately, are needed. As Island Academy does not yet have a separate department or staff for English as a Second Language, there may be an additional cost.

In the future, IA expects the English Language Learner student population to expand with international exchange students. At that time, Island Academy expects to offer an English as a Second Language course, which will be designed to assist international exchange students in developing their English language skills, and to support them in their studies in their core classes.

For bright students who enter IA with little English, where possible we can assign them another student/teacher who can act as a 'buddy'. Regular goals and review should be set. The possibility of online courses in the students' mother tongue can be explored.

For native English speakers students would need a II in English A CXC or the equivalent qualification for entrance onto the IBDP. For entry into all the other grades students need to pass the English entrance exam.

K-Grade 11 World Languages

At Island Academy, we believe that sharing and learning a World Language is an important aspect to strengthening school and global community, and intercultural understanding. Students begin to learn Spanish as part of the curriculum in kindergarten. This is considered a core subject from Primary through Secondary. The vast majority of students sit Spanish CXC at the end of grade 11. At the time of writing we have one full-time primary Spanish teacher and one full-time secondary Spanish teacher.

IBDP World Languages

Students in the IB Diploma Program take English HL and choose between Spanish SL and *Ab Initio*. Additional language courses will be on offer in the future through Pamoja Education.

New students entering IB1 are permitted to enroll in Spanish SL ONLY if they have taken at least three years of formal language classes at another accredited institution AND earned at least a B- in those courses. If new students have not had three years of satisfactory study of a foreign language, they will instead enroll in the *Ab Initio* course, which requires no previous language exposure.