



Söderportgymnasiet

International Baccalaureate Diploma Program

Language Policy

Academic Year 2016/2017

Philosophy

The IB teachers at Söderportgymnasiet recognise that language is fundamental to all learning, and therefore we encourage the students to develop their language skills, both when it comes to world languages and mother tongue. In addition, by offering the IB diploma program in English we put strong emphasis on learning in another language than your mother tongue. Students with non-English native skills graduate with a bilingual diploma.

Every Pre-Diploma student at Söderportgymnasiet studies at least two foreign languages besides their mother tongue. All IB Diploma students are offered the opportunity to continue to study foreign languages. As a school we put strong emphasis on language as a way of developing a deep understanding of other cultures and an appreciation of literature. The pursuit of a mother tongue language is considered highly desirable in line with current political decisions and guidelines on a national level.

The IB program at Söderportgymnasiet aims to offer a wide range of languages to the candidates, ranging from Language A HL to Ab Initio SL. We encourage candidates to study three languages whenever possible and have many native language teachers.

We consider the mother tongue to be of great importance and therefore we encourage students to study their mother tongue as a school supported self-taught course, for languages we do not offer as taught courses.

English is our working language

English is the working language of the IB diploma program at Söderportgymnasiet. Management, staff, teachers and students are expected to communicate in English. It is a requirement for all students to pass admission tests in English in order to confirm their level of English proficiency. Similarly, the school puts strong emphasis on the level of English proficiency when new teachers are employed.



For all students the school offers a preparatory diploma year, PreDP in year 10, delivered entirely in English as a way for non-English native speakers to prepare themselves and practice English reading, writing and oral skills. The following IB diploma years are delivered in English, which becomes a second language for the majority of learners. This practice offers the possibility of inclusion and equal access to the IB diploma program in our community.

In order to facilitate communication with community, the school management and staff uses Swedish along with English. For non-native Swedish students, communication in Swedish is considered a survival skill and therefore these students are provided with the opportunity to study extra- curricular Swedish as a second language along with their six diploma subjects. Proficiency in Swedish as a second language for non-native Swedish learners is a requirement when considering a university education in Sweden.

Mother tongue: Language A

The IB diploma program requires students to study a mother tongue language. Söderportgymnasiet recognizes the importance of the development of the cultural identity of all students through the study of literature. To this end the school arranges a variety of Language A Literature courses. We offer support in the form of scheduled teaching hours for Language A Self Taught candidates with the Language A Literature teacher and whenever available the school also offers support through mother tongue teachers. Students with mother tongues that are special request languages with the IBO are strongly encouraged to pursue studies in these school supported self-taught languages.

Second language: Language B or Ab Initio

Opportunities for learning a second or third language are a matter of priority in the IB program at Söderportgymnasiet. English B HL is a compulsory requirement for non-English native students. Besides English, the school acknowledges the different levels of language proficiency in the European framework and make available both higher level and standard level language B courses in a range of languages. In addition, the Ab Initio level is addressed by the course in Mandarin.

Implementation and evaluation of the language policy

The language policy document and its implementation is the responsibility of the IB Coordinator, who works in collaboration with the IB Head, IB teaching staff and the IB students. In IB faculty meetings and IB student program council meetings the document is evaluated and reviewed annually.