



## Senior School Modern Language Policy

### Rationale

TISB has pupils from approximately 30 nationalities and this diversity adds to the richness of the community. The purpose of this policy is to clarify, with parents and pupils, how the choice of language education is made and what options are available at TISB.

Current parents will be requested to make their language choices in March of each year and new parents will be asked for their choices during the admission process.

### Students entering Grade 11

Students have the opportunity to choose a new language (ab initio/beginners' level) in Grade 11 for the IB Programme if they wish.

Those who want to take up the option of Language B in the IB Diploma should have at least four years of formal academic study in the language. However, a screening test will be conducted in the first few weeks of Grade 11 and accordingly, a student may be advised to move to a different language, specifically at the ab initio level, if necessary.

*NB: Students are not permitted to follow an ab initio course if they have been previously exposed to that language either as a mother tongue or as a resident in a country where the target language is spoken.*

### Students entering Grade 9

Under normal circumstances, only those who have followed a course of instruction in a particular language for at least two years previously will be permitted to study the language at IGCSE.

A diagnostic test will be held for students in the early weeks of Grade 9 to determine linguistic levels and individual concerns will be dealt with on a case to case basis.

For Hindi and Chinese languages, given the higher skill expectations, especially in terms of script learning, the school may choose to mandate a further year of learning in addition to the two years mentioned above.

### Students entering in Grades 7 and 8

Students **must** continue with the language previously studied prior to joining Grades 7 or 8 and students of TISB must make an informed choice after studying one or more languages in Grade 6.

### Students entering in Grade 6

Students may choose to either follow one language throughout the year or to follow two languages (with the exception of Hindi), one in each term, to help them make an informed choice in Grade 7.

Hindi is only offered to students who have already developed all four skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) with a minimum of three years of learning the language.

### **Native speakers**

Native speakers are not allowed to study their native language **with the exception of Hindi**.

*A "native speaker" is defined as anyone who has developed a high level of proficiency in all the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.*

### **Students who are first time learners of Modern Languages**

If students are **first - time learners of a Modern Language**, and **only** if they have never studied any of the Modern Languages before, can choose one of the following: French **or** German **or** Spanish **or** Chinese.

Extra effort to catch up to the required grade level will be needed. Coordinators and ML teachers can provide some support, but this cannot include additional lessons in or out of school time.

Ultimately, the decision as to whether the student will appear for the IGCSE examination in this language will be made following consultation between the student, his/her parents, the language teacher, the HOD and the Coordinators depending upon the progress of the student until the end of Grade 9.