

LANDAU SCHOOL Language Policy

LANDAU School provides a caring international environment, fostering cultural diversity. Individual students achieve their full academic potential, inspired to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens of the global community.

LANDAU School mission statement is the foundation for our language policy. As language forms the basis for all learning, this policy is critical for helping the school to achieve its mission.

LANDAU School consists of International and National (Local) schools.

The language of instruction at LANDAU National/Local School is Azerbaijani or Russian depending on the stream.

While English is the language of instruction at LANDAU International school, the language policy allows for students to inquire in the mother tongue and aspires to multilingualism. The language policy endorses an awareness of the host country's culture and language by teaching Azerbaijani language at all acquisition levels throughout Key Stage 1-5. The mother tongue programme in each section of the school reinforces literacy and cultural identity and reflects the multilingual society we live in. The modern foreign languages programme develops understanding and respect for other cultures.

The language policy recognises the transfer of cognitive skills from the mother tongue to English and vice versa and the acquisition of additional languages. This process encourages the acquisition of higher order thinking skills and development of multiple perspectives. The policy also recognises the importance of all teachers differentiating instruction for students at different levels of language acquisition.

The language policy promotes lifelong learning. Developing language learning skills gives students the capacity to solve problems, think critically and act creatively. Language empowers students to understand, interpret and respond to ideas, attitudes and feelings. Information literacy and technology also provide a gateway to life-long learning and a rich range of language learning opportunities.

PURPOSE OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY

This policy is consistent with other LANDAU School Policies. This document outlines our school's linguistic and academic goals and defines the programme designed to help our students attain these goals.

This policy is intended to provide an overview and guiding principles for language learning at LANDAU School which permeates the entire school curriculum through authentic contexts in a culturally rich and diverse environment

At LANDAU School, we aim to foster in students the ability to think and express themselves with precision, clarity, confidence and imagination in at least three languages. Language development in more than one language enriches personal growth, provides cognitive advantages and is essential to the development of international mindedness. We endeavor to integrate students' cultural and linguistic heritage throughout the curriculum.

LANGUAGE PROFILE AND ADMISSIONS POLICIES

LANDAU School Language Profile

At LANDAU National (Local) School, 100% of student body speaks both Azerbaijani and Russian. In addition, all students are offered English as a Foreign Language and Chinese.

At LANDAU International School, 100% of student body speaks English as the language of instruction. Majority of students are Azerbaijani, however, we have expat students from Russia, UK, Pakistan, India, France, Iran and Turkey. All of our administrative and teaching staff speak English and many are fluent in at least one other language.

Admissions Policies

At PreSchool applicants are required to take an oral test in native language they speak for English division and in Russian for Russian division.

Applicants are required take a test in English in both National and International schools. The level of test difficulty depends on the stream. Students who join German or French languages are tested and placed in groups based on their language levels.

LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES OVERVIEW

A. Pedagogy

We recognise that all teachers are also language teachers who have the responsibility to facilitate language acquisition and promote communication skills through their grade level and content area classes.

B. Assessment

While language acquisition follows distinct stages, students' rate of acquisition varies greatly from individual to individual. Therefore, language teachers assess all language skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking), regularly differentiating through scaffolding or extension as required. Formative and summative assessments in the classroom provide information on language growth. Language teachers regularly standardize students' work to ensure a fair application of assessment criteria. Standardized tests and external examinations in the Secondary School also provide evidence of language acquisition levels.

C. Professional Development

As it is an expectation for all teachers to be language teachers, training focused on integrated language instruction should be offered throughout the year. Azerbaijani and Foreign Language teachers are encouraged to get a C1/C2 level English language proficiency. School provides training and exam conditions. English language proficiency is also evaluated based on the Performance Management Policy.

A. English

In each level of the school, students study English language. Students have regular English lessons and additional English Conversation lessons in Primary and Secondary. When students begin the IGCSE, they take English as a First Language Course. In Upper Secondary, after receiving their IGCSE's, students are also eligible to take a course on SAT, IELTS, TOEFL and English for Academic Purposes. Students graduate with English IGCSE, IELTS, TOEFL and A Level certificates.

B. Azerbaijani

Azerbaijani language is taught as a mother tongue in all year groups up until the graduation. Students take 2 external exams, the former at the end of IGCSE course and the latter at the end of A level/SAT course. External exams in Azerbaijani language are organised by the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan Republic and State Examination Commission.

C. Modern Foreign Languages

Studying a third language (in addition to English and Azerbaijani) is a requirement for all students in Years 5 to 11. French and German are offered as additional languages. Students take German/French IGCSE exams in Year 9 (British Year 11) and A level exams in Year 11 (British Year 13).

Students whose mother tongue is Russian, Turkish or any other language and students who self-study other languages (such as Spanish) are offered to be registered for IGCSE Exams and take extra certificates.

This policy is reviewed annually.