



LAIS Language Policy (Revised: March 2024)

Introduction

This language policy outlines the aims of the LAIS, as far as language teaching and learning are concerned and puts special emphasis on the way students achieve these aims.

The fact that “language is central to learning” (In: Guidelines for developing a school language policy, 1) is a fundamental principle that is applied by all teachers of the school. Students experience the world through language, i.e. it plays a central role in the development of their minds and their identity. A profound understanding of the concepts of, as well as the constant exposure to language and meaning are beneficial for them to become independent, open-minded and knowledgeable people.

Objectives

At the LAIS, English is used as the primary language of instruction and of social interaction. Students of various different cultural and linguistic backgrounds use English not only as a lingua franca, i.e. as the language of interaction between non-native speakers, but also with students or teachers coming from English speaking countries. They are therefore exposed to the language for an increased amount of time and a dynamic and flexible use of the language with their colleagues from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds is provided.

One of the fundamental aims of the school is for students to be able to work and communicate successfully within the English language. Learning a language, as well as learning about and learning through it, is a key concept that is understood and applied by the teachers. Thus, using a holistic approach, teachers aim at developing the skills of each student to the highest level. This, in turn, facilitates the development of open-minded, autonomous, creative and knowledgeable people.

Teachers of the LAIS foster a risk-free environment, allowing students to develop intellectually and grow personally, socially and emotionally. Relevant and significant topics are used in order to help students express and form own opinions and to improve their language skills. Furthermore, students are encouraged to become critical, creative and international-minded people.

Language Programmes at LAIS

Our languages offered are:

- German A Language and Literature SL/HL
- Russian A Language and Literature SL
- English A Language and Literature SL/HL
- Language A Literature school-supported self-taught SL
- English B HL
- German B SL/HL
- Spanish B SL/HL
- Russian B SL/HL

Mag. Sonja Aigner
Mag. Michael Hofbauer
Mag. Jürgen Pflieger
Mag. Maria Regelsberg

Group 1:

<p>A Literature School-Sup- ported Self-Taught</p>	<p>This course is for students speaking fluent Hungarian, Serbian, Croatian, Dutch, French, Czech, ...</p> <p>→ students <u>should already be highly skilled</u></p> <p>→ this should be the <u>language</u> the students <u>used to speak when they were children</u>, it should be their <u>mother tongue</u></p> <p>→ this course is <u>for students whose mother tongue is neither English nor German nor Russian</u></p> <p>→ <u>contact is established to a teacher</u> or institution to provide guidance</p> <p>→ <u>parents are encouraged to continue using the student's mother tongue at home</u></p> <p>→ the students study literature</p> <p>→ this course focuses on literary texts and the discussion of this literary work</p>	<p>Hungarian SL Serbian SL Croatian SL Dutch SL French SL Czech SL ...</p>
<p>A Language and Literature</p>	<p>This class is usually selected by <u>native speakers of German and Russian</u>.</p> <p>→ they <u>should already be highly skilled</u></p> <p>→ this should be a <u>language</u> students were <u>exposed to for a lengthy period or</u> the language the students <u>used to speak when they were children</u></p> <p>→ the students explore <u>different text types</u>, both literary and non-literary, on a range of <u>global issues</u></p> <p>→ the course focuses on the <u>analysis and interpretation of texts</u> and on the development of skills in <u>understanding, listening, speaking, writing and presenting</u></p>	<p>German SL/HL Russian SL</p>
<p>A Language and Literature</p>	<p>This class is usually selected by students who are either <u>native speakers of English or fluent language users</u></p> <p>→ who are <u>competent</u> in English, <u>but would still like to improve</u> their skills in the language</p> <p>→ who aim at studying <u>textual analysis</u>, as well as <u>literature</u></p> <p>→ the students explore <u>different text types</u>, both literary and non-literary, on a range of <u>global issues</u></p> <p>→ the course focuses on the <u>analysis and interpretation of texts</u> and on the development of skills in <u>understanding, listening, speaking, writing, presenting and performing</u></p>	<p>English SL/HL</p>

Group 2:

B	<p>This class is designed for students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">→ who have <u>some background in the target language</u>→ who would like to <u>acquire a language in addition to the language studied in group 1</u>→ who are working on <u>language fluency</u>→ who want to <u>explore the culture(s)</u> connected with the language <p>→ students improve their communicative abilities in various situations</p> <p>→ awareness and respect for other cultures are raised</p>	English HL German SL/HL Spanish SL/HL Russian SL/HL
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Second Language Support

For speakers of English, German or Russian, we offer the possibility to attend support classes. Here students can work within small groups to improve their language skills. Thus, they get support to enrich their proficiency of English, German or Russian. In addition, there is Spanish tuition, which gives the students the opportunity to study whenever they want to and whatever they need to in small groups.

Mother Tongue School-Supported Self-Taught

If a student's mother tongue is neither English nor German nor Russian, we offer the possibility to study language A school-supported self-taught Standard Level within the International Baccalaureate Organization's Diploma Programme. Currently we have students with Serbian, Croatian, Italian, Hungarian, Czech and Dutch mother tongue. The students do not only get the chance to develop their own cultural identity, but they also contribute to an open-minded perception of the English or German speaking students. Moreover, with the study of these languages the preservation of the student's mother tongue is guaranteed.

In addition to the regular lessons, support is provided for the students which results in an enriched intellectual and personal development of the students' minds. Furthermore, the maintenance and therefore concurrence of various languages at the school fosters better understanding, as well as cultural awareness and appreciation.

Language of the host country

As our school is situated in Lower Austria, students are surrounded by a German speaking world. At school the non-native speakers of German, thus, have the opportunity to learn and improve their German language proficiency. This natural exposure to the language increases their communicative and fosters their linguistic skills.

Mother tongue (if) not studied in an IB course

If a student does not want to or cannot study his best language (mother tongue) in a school language course or a school-supported self-taught course, he is encouraged by his language teachers to keep reading, writing and speaking in this language, in order not to lose sight of his linguistic and cultural background. At LAIS mother tongue is considered a valuable asset, not only a student himself but also his classmates and teachers can benefit from. Hence we foster cultural awareness, which again contributes to our students' appreciation of their own as well as their peers' and teachers' mother tongues.

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