



Language Policy

2025

Introduction

This document aims to present the language policy of Escola Nova by SIS. Language is considered a powerful tool that enables students to communicate, integrate, socialize, and acquire knowledge. Keeping in mind the concept of international mindedness, it is believed that students exposed to a variety of languages not only broaden their horizons but also contribute to greater global integration, respecting cultural differences.

Since the beginning of the 2024 academic year, Escola Nova by SIS has offered a bilingual education as an alternative progression in Basic Education. Initially implemented in the early years of Early Childhood Education, bilingual teaching will accompany the first generation of students throughout their journey in Elementary Education until the Diploma Programme in High School. The bilingual modality is always offered on a full-time basis.

Philosophy

- The entire community is involved in the language learning process, including parents, students, teachers from all areas, and other school staff.
- All teachers are language teachers and contribute to the enhancement of language skills.
- All languages are equally valued. However, once Portuguese is the mother tongue of most of our students, it has a prominent position in our curriculum. We offer Portuguese as language A, contemplating not only linguistics aspects, but also literature. Despite being the IB language of instruction, English is offered as language B and the same occurs concerning Spanish.
- Language should be taught in an integrated manner.
- Language is an expression of culture, and thus it is valued and respected as part of the student's identity.

- Language acquisition is a continuous process.
- Learning other languages transforms students into global citizens with a better understanding of the world.
- Mother tongues are valued, respected, and all necessary support is provided to students.
- Considering language as an essential tool, students are linguistically challenged and encouraged to research, inquire, and investigate.
- Students should be able to think and express themselves accurately and clearly in at least two languages.

The school encourages parents to actively participate in their children's language development through parents' meetings with the coordination. Besides that, we arrange two special moments when parents can talk to teachers and discuss the best strategies to foster progress or to deal with their difficulties.

If parents feel the need to talk about their kids, they do not have to wait for the scheduled meetings, they can get in touch with the school and arrange a talk with the coordinator or any specific teacher.

We motivate parents to have a collaborative attitude and really engage in their children learning process.

Language Structure

The language of instruction is Portuguese, which is also the mother tongue of the vast majority of students. However, the school includes two more languages in the curriculum: English and Spanish. Students are introduced to English in Early Childhood Education, and formal language study begins in the 1st grade.

In the 2nd grade, when students have gained more proficiency in both their mother tongue and English, they also start regular Spanish classes, which continue until the 9th grade. The teaching of English and Spanish is aimed at excellence and, consequently, prepares our students for entry into the Diploma Programme.

Escola Nova by SIS has a dedicated foreign language coordination. The language coordinator also serves as the director of the IB Diploma Programme and is available daily to support teachers and guide students who are facing difficulties.

Escola Nova by SIS offers curriculum adaptations and assessment accommodations for students with special needs, with each case reviewed by the inclusion supervisor, their team, and teachers. These accommodations are provided for both students with learning difficulties and those with high abilities.

There is also broad access to literature, both in the mother tongue and in English. From the early years, students are encouraged through reading projects to visit the library regularly and choose books on which they will present a review to their teacher. Additionally, we organize a Literary Week. During this week, the entire school engages in activities that explore different literary styles. Some guest speakers are invited to participate in lectures, further enriching the event.

Throughout the school year, students participate in two other cultural events: the Science Fair and the Cultural Showcase. In these events, regardless of the topic, language is always present. Language teachers, along with their students, develop projects that enhance learning. At the end of the year, students take part in a Film Festival, which is the culmination of various projects developed in the area of Languages and other fields of knowledge.

Admission and Assessment

ADMISSION

According to the Admission Policy, students wishing to enroll in the school must go through three stages: analysis of the student's academic record, an interview with the educational guidance department, and a qualifying exam.

The qualifying exam consists of assessments in Portuguese Language, Brazilian Literature, English Language, and Mathematics. Only in the last two years is the exam divided by areas of knowledge and entirely essay-based.

ASSESSMENT

Following the standards presented in the Assessment Policy, students are evaluated in a variety of ways, including formal exams, group work, research projects, essays, seminars, etc. Specifically for languages, the four skills (Reading/Writing/Listening/Speaking) are tested equally. Students receive constant feedback on their performance.

Conclusion

Escola Nova by SIS recognizes the importance of language in the learning process, giving it a prominent place in the curriculum. With the aim of constantly aligning with current times and meeting students' needs, the Language Policy is continuously reviewed and updated.

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