

Languages Policy

Reviewed by PRM: March 2018

Next Review: March 2021



RYDE SCHOOL
WITH UPPER CHINE

Philosophy

Ryde School believes that all pupils should have the opportunity to learn and explore the language and culture of other countries.

Through effective communication in another language, pupils are made aware of cultural diversity and are better equipped to understand the global environment in which they live, preparing them to be active participants in multilingual communities at home and around the world.

Access to a foreign language can bring personal and intellectual satisfaction and open up opportunities for meeting people of other nations, experiencing different environments and cultures and taking up residence and work in another area of the world.

We encourage pupils to use their languages for personal and social satisfaction, for use in commercial and diplomatic contexts and for entry into other nations' work forces. With a good working knowledge of other languages our students can become true global citizens. However, the study of languages is not just about providing for career needs later in life. It is also about intellectual challenge, a rounded education and an understanding of people and culture beyond our shores, no matter how near that may be.

Language Profile of Students at Ryde School

Most pupils at Ryde School have English as their first language. For some boarding pupils English is not their first language but this is also the case for a few day pupils. All pupils admitted to the School are expected to be proficient in English to the extent that they can access the curriculum within lessons. Where appropriate, pupils with English as a second language will have lessons to develop their language skills.

Development of Language within the School

All pupils from Year 1 to Year 11 are required to study at least one foreign language. Different languages are studied at various points in a pupil's development as it is not productive to study one language continuously across this length of time. The structure of the School's programme is as follows:

Year 1: Mandarin & Spanish (30 minutes of each)

Years 2 - 4: Spanish (1 hour)

Years 5 & 6: Spanish (2 hours) & Latin (1 hour)

Year 7: French or ESL (3 hours) & one from German, Mandarin or Latin (2 hours)

Years 8 & 9: French and/or Spanish or ESL (3 hours) & continuing German, Mandarin or Latin (2 hours)

Years 10 & 11: Within GCSE Options at least one language, and up to three, from French, Spanish, German, ESL, Latin or Mandarin.

In the Sixth Form, pupils studying either IB course will be required to study languages as part of their course. A Level pupils are able to select French, German or Spanish as one of their core subjects. All of these courses are usually taught as IB Language B Higher Level rather than A Level as it is felt that these are superior courses to A Level. In addition, pupils studying A Level may select the IB Language Ab initio (currently Italian) as their Enrichment option.

English as a Second Language

The School supports students for whom English is not their native language through ESL. In Years 7 to 9 pupils take ESL as their first language option. In Years 10 & 11 pupils take ESL as their compulsory language option and may opt to take other languages as part of their choices. Sixth Form pupils with English as a second language have one ESL lesson per week and take the IELTS qualification at the appropriate time. Any Sixth Form pupil requiring additional ESL support will be required to attend additional one-to-one, or small group, lessons for which there is an additional charge.

Mother Tongue and Self-Taught Language Support

At Ryde School, we acknowledge the importance of a student's mother tongue in promoting personal identity and maintaining his/her cultural heritage. Pupils are encouraged and supported to take qualifications in their own language at the appropriate time irrespective of their current year group. Sixth Form pupils taking the IB Diploma Programme may take a self-taught language as their Group 2 option.

Pupils following the self-taught IB programmes course can expect the following support:

- Weekly timetable of one or two periods with a generalist language and literature teacher
- An assessment calendar
- Course syllabus, materials and past papers
- Regular and frequent teacher consultations
- Assignment of prep/coursework
- Prep/coursework evaluation and recommendations for improvement, assisted where possible by native speakers of the target language whom the school contracts.
- Assignment guidance (in accordance with IBO regulations)
 - Text selection
 - Preparation
 - Execution
 - Submission
- Guidance in examination technique and assessment criteria
- Special needs support as appropriate

Roles & Responsibilities

Management & Leadership

Implementation of the School's languages policy is overseen by the Director of Languages whose responsibility extends across the whole school to ensure continuity in each section. Within the Junior School there exists a Subject Coordinator for languages who is responsible to the Director of Languages but line managed by the Director of Studies (Junior School). As a Head of Department, the Director of Languages is line managed by the Director of Studies (Senior School) but also works with the Deputy Head Academic with regards to whole school provision and continuity.

Within the Senior School each language is overseen by the lead teacher with a specific Head of Spanish due to the number of teachers in this subject.

Languages Teachers

Language teachers are expected to teach their subject in a way that promotes the confidence and ability to use the language. In addition to the acquisition of vocabulary and grammar skills, teachers should develop the pupils' cultural awareness of the countries that speak the target language.

Detailed arrangements for the teaching and learning of languages at Ryde School are provided within departmental documentation.

Language Assistants

One-to-one tutoring is available with native speakers of French, German and Spanish, and all staff are actively encouraged and supported in their professional development.

Support & Profile

Languages Clinics

Students are able to attend regular scheduled languages clinics to further language development and to address concerns, difficulties and anxieties arising out of lessons and prep/coursework. Clinic details are published at the beginning of the academic year.

Special Needs

All pupils have access to a languages curriculum regardless of academic, physical, social and personal needs. The School believes that learning a foreign language supports a pupil's understanding of their own language whilst also developing a useful life skill. In the Senior School a pupil with specific learning support needs may have an Individual Education Programme (IEP) which adjusts their curriculum such that they only study one language during Years 7 – 9.

Trips & Visits

Trips and visits to other countries are seen as an integral part of developing the pupils' use of languages as well as cultural awareness. Overseas trips start within the Junior School in Year 6 with a Spanish residential visit.

Extra-curricular

During the Autumn Term the languages department organises a Languages Week to celebrate the language and culture of other countries. In addition to languages taught within the School, this event promotes investigating and speaking other languages from around the world.

Throughout the year the department organises a variety of events to celebrate significant cultural days within the calendar of countries in the languages taught at Ryde School.