



ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION INTERNATIONAL

School Policy on Singapore Ministry of Education's Mother Tongue (MTL)

Requirements

The school complies with Singapore Ministry of Education's MTL requirements for Singapore citizens (SC) and Permanent Residents (PR). All other pass holders do not come under the auspices of this policy. In addition, this policy does not apply to Singaporean Citizens or Permanent Residents who have full MoE Mother Tongue Language exemption or who have a minimum D7 pass in the Higher Chinese, Higher Tamil or Higher Malay GCE O Level exams.

Approved Mother Tongue Languages

For SC and PR students, the Mother Tongue is determined by the Ministry of Education and students will be required to study this language through to the IB Diploma level (minimum Language B SL) as part of the school's curriculum. Students can choose to change from one approved Mother Tongue Language (not an in-lieu Mother Tongue Language) to another approved Mother Tongue Language but this is subject to the School's approval. The intention should always be to aim for language continuity reaching the highest possible level of proficiency.

The school offers Chinese, Tamil and Malay as taught government-approved Mother Tongue Languages. No additional documentation is required by SC or PRs taking these languages.

Government Approved Non-Tamil Indian Language (NTIL)

If a student's mother tongue is a government approved NTIL (Punjabi, Gujarati, Bengali or Urdu), they are encouraged to study this subject in school as part of the school's Home Language Programme. Students may choose, however, to take this outside of school. If taken outside school, students of these subjects are required to complete the O Level / IGCSE and A Level examinations in the appropriate language and furnish the school with the evidence that these exams have been taken and passed (S pass level for A Level). Parents are required to sign a letter taking responsibility for arranging tuition in the language and for entering their child for the appropriate examinations. Failure to provide evidence of registration for the appropriate examination (A or O-Level) or evidence of the exam being passed will result in a student not being able to enter local Singapore universities. For those who take the outside examinations, students will still be required to study a second language of their choice at school, completing all usual assessment requirements.

Hindi

Hindi is also a Government Approved Non-Tamil Indian Language which is taught as an integral part of the school curriculum. Students will take the IGCSE Hindi as a Second Language and IB Diploma Hindi B (SL as a minimum) examinations as evidence of their adherence to the requirements of the MoE Mother Tongue Policy.

Mother Tongue-in-Lieu

Students may apply for Mother Tongue-in-Lieu exemption which allows them to study French, German, Japanese, Thai, Burmese or Arabic. This is normally granted based on the length of study previously completed in that language or having a family / home connection to the language. For languages where there is a clear pathway to IB (French, German, Japanese, Arabic, Thai), students are encouraged to study these subjects as part of the school's Home Language Programme. If taken outside, students will be required to complete the IGCSE / O Level and A Level examinations in the appropriate language if they wish to attend a local Singapore university. For those who take the outside examinations, students will still be required to study a second language of their choice at school, completing all usual assessment requirements.

A Level B Syllabus Examinations

Very occasionally, students may struggle to pass their approved Mother Tongue language (Chinese, Tamil or Malay) in Grades 11 and 12. In this case the school will support the student to apply for the B syllabus A Level equivalent examination which will be taken outside school. The school will register students for this examination which will be taken in November of Grade 11 or Grade 12. Preparation for this remains the parents' responsibility and they will be required to sign a letter to this effect. Students in this case will likely study another ab initio language in school to complete their Diploma.

Decisions about eligibility for this route **will be made by the school** on a case by case basis. As a minimum we would expect to see:

- Significant interventions over time in collaboration between school / student / parents
- Full effort towards improvement by the student over time
- Full support of parents in supporting improvement
- Commitment to sustaining learning outside school environment
- In the expert view of the Languages department despite exceptional effort being applied, the full range of achievement (1-7) is simply not possible at IB Diploma

If the student's MoE approved MTL is taught within the school context (Chinese, Malay, Tamil or Hindi) students will not be allowed to take the outside local examinations as an alternative to the school's curriculum at any point except as detailed above.

Opportunities to Study Other Languages

Students who wish to take a non-MoE approved MTL or a third language are strongly encouraged to study this language outside school as an activity, which will be part of the SMILES (Grade 7 and 8), Foundation CAS (Grades 9 and 10) or CAS (Grade 11 and 12) programmes. In addition, students are able to take an ab initio language as a Group 6 option at IB level (in addition to their chosen Groups 1 and 2 languages).

The Home Language Programme

The aim of this programme is to help support the home language learning of students who are in our school community whose home language may be one we do not offer as part of our main curriculum. Students will be encouraged to study their home language to a high proficiency and will be able to study this language from Grades 7 to the IB Diploma (if the language is offered by the IBO), aiming to achieve a bilingual diploma (two group 1 subjects: Home Language and English). Students are also able to study their home language at a Group 2 (second language) as appropriate. Please [see the separate policy](#) for details of this programme.

In the first instance, this programme is for students studying on Dependent and Student passes.

On a case-by-case basis, the Home Language programme or our mainstream curricular languages (Spanish, Indonesian) may also be extended to Singaporean Citizens or Singaporean Permanent residents who:

- have been exempted from the MOE Language policy and who have a native language which is not English, Chinese, Malay or Tamil;
- have MOE approval to study a Mother Tongue – in –Lieu; or who
- have a native language which is not English, Chinese, Malay or Tamil. In this instance, students will still be required to study their MoE Mother Tongue Language externally, and if the option exists, will receive guidance on the most appropriate pathway for them (O/A level or O/A level B syllabus). Preparation for this remains the parents' responsibility and they will be required to sign a letter to this effect.