



SECONDARY LANGUAGE POLICY

Anglican International School Jerusalem

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Our Philosophy: Language at AISJ

The Anglican International School Jerusalem (AISJ) is an English-medium school, accredited by the Middle States Association in the United States. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, we are proud to offer the Middle Years Programme (MYP) and the Diploma Programme (DP), and provide our students with a globally recognized, rigorous international education, emphasizing critical thinking, creativity, and intercultural understanding.

In seeking to provide a truly international education for our students, we offer a rich and varied language program to accommodate our diverse community of learners. As English is the language of study at AISJ, it is a priority to offer the necessary support to enable all students to access the curriculum. Accordingly, all teachers throughout the school are viewed as language teachers, with a shared responsibility to provide students with tools for effective communication.

In the 21st century, the ability to communicate in more than one language is intrinsic in fostering international understanding and tolerance, and is an essential part of educating open-minded global citizens. As such, we offer a rich language acquisition programme at AISJ. In addition, we encourage and support continued learning in students' native languages, to affirm their cultural identities, and ease readjustment, should they return to their home countries. Our language program includes:

- Language A (native)
- Language B (acquisition)
- English as an additional language (EAL)

1. Language A

As AISJ is an English-medium school, it is the Language A subject across the school from Nursery to DY2. However, it is recognized that many of our students have native languages other than English. Accordingly, the option of taking another Language A subject, in addition to English, is offered to all students from MY1 onwards in a mother tongue self-taught program. Students who choose to study their mother tongue at Language A level, as part of the

MYP Mother Tongue Language Program or the DP School Supported Self-Taught (SSST) Language A program, arrange tuition privately with a tutor. The World Languages Coordinator oversees the program but does not manage individual tutoring arrangements. Students are required to complete a documented number of tuition hours per semester, in accordance with IB and MSA regulations.

2. Language B

Language B instruction plays a key role in education at AISJ. We believe that additional language acquisition contributes to enhanced intercultural awareness and understanding, and greater open-mindedness toward other cultures.

2.1 Middle Years (MY)

In the MYP, we offer three Language B options; Arabic, Hebrew, and French, two of which are the local languages of the host country. Classes in these three languages are offered at emergent, capable and proficient levels. The MYP language acquisition phases determine the appropriate Language B placement for students entering the DP.

2.2 Diploma Years (DY)

In the DP, we offer the following Language B options:

- English B, French B, Hebrew B, Arabic B
- French ab initio (beginner), Arabic ab initio
- Other languages through Pamoja Education, which may be subject to an additional cost by the family

It is important to note that candidates for the full IB Diploma must study one language at Language A level and one at Language B level, or two languages at Language A level (leading to a Bilingual IB Diploma). English B is offered to make DP English accessible to all students; however, IB Diploma candidates enrolled in English B must fulfill the Language A requirement by taking SSST Language A.

As the local languages of the host country, Arabic B/Arabic ab initio and Hebrew B are

courses that are guaranteed, regardless of the number of students who have enrolled in them.

3. EAL

At AISJ, we welcome students with a wide range of English abilities. Students whose level of English is not sufficient to access the curriculum are provided with EAL (English as an Additional Language) classes. In secondary, students new to English medium learning are eligible for two years of EAL support, at no additional cost to the family. In the MYP, this support may take the place of a formal Language B class. The purpose of EAL support is to enable students to reach the level of proficiency needed in order to access the curriculum (see [AISJ Inclusion Policy](#) for additional details).

4. Language use around the school

English is the language of instruction throughout the school, with the obvious exception of language classes. Subject teachers are encouraged to provide additional learning resources, such as vocabulary lists, as necessary, to support the English language development of all students and to build confidence in their ability to access the curriculum in our English-medium setting.

At AISJ, we believe that students need to know that our school respects their culture and language. Communication in native languages is allowed during non-study time, and may also be appropriate in the classroom in some situations. For example, when opportunities arise teachers may draw on the diversity of language backgrounds among students and ask them to share how an idea is expressed in their native language, promoting international-mindedness.