



Language Policy for BME International Secondary School

2014, last updated September 2025

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1. Introduction

The BME International Secondary School is an English language Hungarian foundation school that has students from more than 20 countries with many students functioning in two or three languages.

Being able to communicate and access information in multiple languages broadens cultural understanding and fosters openness to different perspectives. This principle guides the language policy of the school.

The school functions in two languages: English and Hungarian, but because many of the students are non-native speakers in one or both of these languages, the school acknowledges the right of parents and students to be supported in their native languages.

The common language of all members in our multilingual community of students and teachers is English. Although we respect the right to use any language for interpersonal communication within the school, we require that communication in the classroom be conducted in the target language. Outside the classroom, the guiding principle should be to include everyone in social interactions.

The school also realizes that all teachers are language teachers and must support language acquisition strategies. Subject teachers will primarily focus on the discourse of their subject, including the terminology and linguistic genres characteristic of their discipline.

2. Principles into Practice

Administrative support of all Languages

1. The administrative staff is fluent in both Hungarian and English.
2. For the IB DP the school uses ManageBac in English and emailing in English or Hungarian for communicating with all stakeholders.
3. Conferences for stakeholders are conducted in English and Hungarian.
4. In the case of stakeholders who do not know either language, the school will make every attempt to find parties who can translate necessary information either verbally or in writing. Extra time may be needed for this.
5. The working language of the IB DP is English. IB related information is available in English.
6. Students applying to the BME International Secondary School non-IB programme who came from non-English medium schools must score 70% on the in-house entrance exam or have an accredited B2 language certificate. IB applicants must have a strong command of academic English.

Classroom Practice

1. The language of instruction is English excepting Language acquisition and Hungarian language and/or literature classes.
2. All school events (clubs, outside school cultural and sporting events) are conducted in English.
3. The school maintains an intensive English program for the 9-10 grades to prepare students for the IB DP focusing on essay writing, project work, presentations and literature.
4. All subject teachers are in practice language teachers as well, teaching terminology and specific subject related linguistic skills and developing materials for teaching based on good ESL practices as needed.
5. At the end of 10th grade students are required to take a C1 level equivalent in-house English Language Exam.
6. The school's pedagogical program provides at least 1 hour of small group ESL tutoring as part of tuition as deemed necessary by teachers.
7. The school encourages the opportunity to travel to countries where English is spoken although these are not necessarily included in tuition.

8. The school supports the preparation for language exams outside of the school. (Cambridge, TOEFL, IELTS)
9. With advanced level secondary school leaving exams and bilingual education, non-IB students receive a state-recognized C1 CEFR language exam certificate along with their secondary school leaving certificate.
10. The IB diploma in the language of instruction, is equivalent to a Hungarian state-recognized, general, single-language, complex type advanced-level (C1) language examination.

Promotion of Hungarian

1. Our school is in Hungary therefore in the 9-10 grade all students who are not Hungarian citizens learn Hungarian as a foreign language.
2. In the 9 -10 grade, all Hungarian students study Hungarian literature and language. In our DP course selection the school offers Hungarian A: Literature for all students who choose this.
3. CAS provides opportunities for students to work with the local Hungarian community.
4. Major school events where parents are present as well are conducted in both Hungarian and English.

Promotion of Mother tongues other than English and Hungarian

1. The school respects all languages as it respects all nationalities.
2. The school will make every attempt to communicate in the stakeholders' language if the stakeholder does not feel comfortable with either Hungarian or English.
3. In the IB DP The school will offer Language A: literature school supported self-taught subjects for students who wish to further explore their native language.
 - a. The school will inform the IB stakeholders of this opportunity.
 - b. The school will provide an English speaking language A: literature teacher to supervise and advise the self-taught candidate.
 - c. The school, working with the student, will attempt to find the necessary resources and tutor for learning the subject.
 - d. The student is responsible for paying for educational materials and tutoring as well to fulfill the requirements for Language A: literature school supported self-taught subjects.
4. CAS provides opportunities for culture and language based activities, such as the International Day where students can represent their culture.

Promotion of Learning other Languages

1. Part of being in an international school is discovering the diversity of the world. Language diversity is a part of this and the school promotes the learning of additional languages with many students finishing the school fluent in three languages.
2. Students will learn a language other than Hungarian or English in the DP. In the 9-10th grade, all students learn another language than Hungarian or English, usually German, French or Spanish. These can be continued in the DP as Language B subjects.
3. The school monitors which foreign languages interest students have and when possible provides opportunities to learn these languages as Language B or as Language ab initio in the DP. One language will be offered at ab initio level.
4. Foreign Language study is conducted in small groups in the DP.
5. Most students take two language exams (English and a Modern Foreign Language) at the school leaving exam (IB or Hungarian Matura).

3. Conclusion

An international school is a diverse community where students learn about the vast similarities between all the peoples of the world as well as the differences. It must be a community of respect between all stakeholders – parents, students, teachers and administrators. It is also part of a wider community which must be respected – in this case the Hungarian community. A language policy for a school must promote this kind of respect. Caregivers, no matter what languages they know, must feel comfortable coming into the office or communicating with teachers. The local community should be enthusiastic about an international school and students should be enthusiastic about living in the local community. Finally students must feel that the language they were born with has value just as every language is unique and valuable. The language policy of the BME International Secondary School will promote these principles.

Policy Review

This policy has been created and accepted by the IB staff of BME International Secondary School and reviewed **annually** in September by the IB Coordinators, and Head of School, with feedback from stakeholders.

Last Reviewed: September 2025

Next Review Due: September 2026

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