



*III Liceum Ogólnokształcące im Marynarki Wojennej RP w Gdyni
International Baccalaureate World School 0704*

School Language Policy

Gdynia High School No. 3 and IB School No. 0704 (**III LO w Gdyni i Szkoła Matury Międzynarodowej nr 0704**) is made up of National Programme classes following regulations set by the Polish Ministry of Education and classes following the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

The School Statute is the supreme document that defines the organization of the school, its legal status, the school's philosophy, policies, and rights, rules and regulations concerning staff, students and parents.

Issues related to languages are stated in its Statute.

Where the International Baccalaureate Programme is concerned, they are related to stipulated principles of the IBO

The mission statement of the school states that

The school aims at holistic education of students for life in modern civilization. It ensures the right to holistic development regardless of nationality, religion, social status, wealth, sex, health conditions or any other features that might imply inequality. It wants to help raise and develop a righteous and respectable person, a citizen devoted to the community, who protects his national heritage and appreciates the values of modern civilization.

The school recognizes the significance of language teaching:

As language is the most important tool for thinking, ethical action and mutual understanding, and because speaking foreign languages is the basis for participation in societies of the United Europe of many nations and cultures, the school puts particular emphasis on teaching Polish and English, and bilingualism is the general policy in most classes. Aiming at trilingualism, the school pays special attention to language teaching in general. (School Statute, § 6)

PRACTICES RELATED TO TEACHING LANGUAGES

Language of Instruction

Polish is the main language of instruction in classes following the National Programme and in many classes teaching is bilingual - in Polish and English.

Teaching in bilingual classes within the national curriculum must comply with other regulations (School Statute, § 16) *(Regulations of the Ministry of Education concerning bilingual education).*

IB Diploma Classes

English is the language of instruction in classes following the IB DP Programme for all subjects except Language A and Languages B (if not English).

Mother Tongue

Learning the mother tongue is a compulsory part of the curriculum for all grades. For the majority of the students Polish is their native language. The study of the language is based on the reading and studying of literature and language. The number of teaching hours a week varies depending on the class profile, level and grade. The minimum is four hours a week.

The mother tongue is an obligatory component of the final national Matura Exams.

IB Diploma Classes

Every student takes a compulsory first language (Language A) course in his or her most competent language. This is normally the language of the environment to which the student has been exposed from an early age or for an extended period.

Polish is offered as a Language A regularly at both Higher and Standard Levels. Polish Literature A classes are taught 4 hours a week at SL and 6 hours a week at HL.

If possible, a student may study a different Language A at Standard Level though the IB school-supported self-taught option. In this case students study under the guidance of an external teacher and supervision of the school DP coordinator.

Second Language Study

Since language teaching is one of the priorities of the school, apart from the mother tongue, each student learns English and another foreign language as part of the school curriculum.

● English:

- all classes follow an extended program of teaching English (aiming at B2)
- students with good language skills are taught English at an advanced level (C1,C2).

Our goal is for all students to become proficient in English by the end of their education at school. Thus, the school offers regular support to students whose English language skills are not strong enough to allow them to fully participate and/or develop their skills at the same pace with the class. These students may join additional lessons to catch up with their class work.

To ensure the best conditions for language learning and performance, during language classes students are divided into groups corresponding to their language level.

● Other foreign languages:

- as part of the obligatory curriculum students have a choice between French, German, Spanish and Russian
- optionally, a student may learn a third foreign language if it fits into the schedule – a chosen language among the above and Latin.

To ensure the best conditions for language learning and performance, during language classes students are divided into groups corresponding to their language level.

At the request of students, teachers and/or parents the Parents Council of the school may fund additional language classes for students.

IB Diploma Programme groups

Following the requirements of the IB Diploma Programme, all students study at least one language other than their mother tongue within Group 2. The school offer includes:

- Languages B - English - HL,
 - French – HL, SL, ab initio
 - German - HL, SL, ab initio

All effort is put into making it possible for students to study a second language at a level most suitable to their needs as well as an additional, third, language. It is common for students to take a second Language B as their 7th, extra certificate subject.

IB students are encouraged to learn languages by including language courses as one of the possible CAS activities.

Polish for non-native students

Students of foreign backgrounds may learn Polish as mother tongue if their language skills are good enough.

Students of foreign backgrounds and Polish students without adequate language skills are offered extra classes of Polish in accordance with the regulations of the Polish legal system in **Art. 165 ust. 7 i 9** (Ustawa z dnia 14 grudnia 2016 r. Prawo oświatowe). The Head of School applies to the Municipality of Gdynia for the provision such support.

Admissions

As part of the application process candidates take a language assessment test in English to determine their current language level. Basing on the results students are assigned to bilingual or non-bilingual classes and the within the latter into appropriate level groups to guarantee the best conditions for learning.

When applying to the school, candidates, or their legal guardians, indicate their choice of second language to be taught to the prospective student.

IB Diploma Classes

Since English is the language of instruction, candidates for the IB Diploma classes have an interview in English.

When applying to the IB class, candidates indicate their choice of second language on the application form.

Additional support

The school aims at supporting the school community in assisting language learning. This is done by:

- providing extra classes for students to develop their skills or interests
- providing access to literature in a variety of languages in the school library
- participating in competitions related to a variety of languages, literatures and cultures
- organizing events promoting different languages
- participating in international exchanges and projects.

Since language is the basic tool in teaching, the school aims at promoting multilingual teaching and developing language skills among the staff. This is done by:

- promoting bilingual teaching in classes
 - teacher participation in international workshops and exchanges
 - organizing and participating in international projects
 - enabling teachers and school staff to develop their foreign language skills on language courses
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References

1. *Statut Zespołu Szkół Ogólnokształcących nr1 w Gdyni*, updated January 2013

http://www.gdynia.pl/g2/2010_10/40336_fileot.doc

2. *Dziennik Ustaw nr 57, poz 361*, Ministerstwo Edukacji Narodowej, 1 April 2010,

<http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20100570361>