



STRAITS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL PENANG

Multilingualism Policy

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Vision

To cultivate a community of lifelong learners who communicate confidently across cultures, think critically, and contribute meaningfully to a connected world.

Mission

Straits International School Penang's overall mission is to foster holistic development, nurturing students into globally minded individuals equipped with the skills to thrive in an ever-changing world. This relates to language learning because effective communication in multiple languages is essential for international understanding, collaboration, and personal growth. Our mission statement is aimed at students, parents, staff, and the wider community.

Aims of the Multilingualism policy

The aims of Straits International School's language policy are to promote multilingualism, celebrate cultural diversity, provide equitable access to language learning opportunities, and facilitate effective communication across languages and cultures.

Language profile of school community

At Straits International School Penang, English, Bahasa Malaysia, and Mandarin are the predominant languages of communication among students, parents, and staff. The school community is also home to a diverse range of other languages, including Korean, Japanese, various Indian languages, and others, reflecting the multicultural nature of our environment.

Admissions policy and practice

The school's admissions policy relates to language by ensuring equitable access to language learning opportunities for all students, regardless of their linguistic background. With regard to communicating the language policy to parents, the admissions staff provide information about the importance of multilingualism and the support available for language development. The 'Language Profile' aims to discover a student's linguistic history and experience by conducting language proficiency assessments. A student's level of proficiency in English is determined using standardised assessment tools, CAT4 after

admission into the school and an interview with an SLT member during their initial visit. Students are required to have a certain level of English proficiency to be admitted to the school, although support is provided for ELL learners.

School pedagogy and curriculum

The school’s pedagogical practice/curriculum supports the aim of the language policy by integrating language learning across all subject areas and providing differentiated instruction to meet the diverse needs of students using our Chilli Challenge system (Seasoned/ Mild/ Spicy/ Hot/ Extra Hot). Professional development for teachers on the school’s language policy is ongoing and includes training on language acquisition and home language/ translanguageing strategies in lessons and culturally responsive teaching practices such as CPDs, workshops and Learning Hub courses.

Assessment

The school’s assessment practices are designed to support the language policy, using both formative and summative assessments to evaluate language proficiency across all domains. Grades and reports are tailored for language learners, with additional support provided as needed. Each language subject is assessed on two language skills per term for Year 1 till Year 9. Year 10 and Year 11 students are assessed on four language skills per term.

Year 1 - 9 Grade Boundaries	
A+	92% - 100%
A	82% - 91%
A-	78% - 81%
B+	74% - 77%
B	64% - 73%
B-	60% - 63%
C+	56% - 59%
C	46% - 55%
C-	42% - 45%
D+	38% - 41%
D	28% - 37%
D-	24% - 27%
E+	20% - 23%
E	13% - 19%
E-	12% and below

Report Grade Weightings:

Year 1 - 5	
Assessment	Knowledge/Skills
40%	60%

Year 6 - 10	
Assessment	Knowledge/Skills
60%	40%

Year 11	
Assessment	Knowledge/Skills
100%	0%

ELL programme

The ELL provision at Straits International School Penang offers targeted language support for students with varying levels of English proficiency. The programme is structured into three tiers, ensuring that provision is matched carefully to individual student needs.

- Tier 3 provides the highest level of support, with 10 ELL lessons per week for students who require intensive language intervention.
- Tier 2 offers up to 5-6 ELL lessons per week, supporting students as they develop increasing confidence and competence in English while progressively accessing the mainstream curriculum. This further reduces to 2-3 ELL lessons per week, delivered during Bahasa Malaysia (BM) lessons or Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs). This tier focuses on consolidation and targeted language support while ensuring minimal disruption to core academic learning.

Across all tiers, the provision includes CEFR-aligned instruction at Pre-A1, A1, and A2 levels. Teaching is supported through scaffolded learning strategies and close integration with mainstream classroom provision to ensure access to the wider curriculum.

The ELL programme is designed to support students across different age groups and stages of language acquisition. Clear entry and exit criteria are applied of 60% or above to graduate to the next tier, based on language proficiency assessments and ongoing teacher feedback. Information about the ELL provision is communicated clearly to students, parents, and staff through comprehensive documentation and regular updates.

Other languages

In addition to ELL and English, Straits International School Penang offers other languages such as Bahasa Malaysia, and Mandarin at Early Years, KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4. The entry criteria for access to these language lessons may include placement tests or recommendations from teachers.

Mother tongue languages

Straits International School Penang encourages the use of mother tongue languages in the classroom, where required, to support identity development and cultural preservation,

while promoting English as the primary medium of instruction. The mother tongue is incorporated into the school curriculum through language and cultural studies, literature, and enrichment activities. The school also promotes the use of mother tongue outside of the formal curriculum through community events, language clubs, and partnerships with local cultural organisations. Parents and students are educated about the importance of their mother tongue through workshops, newsletters, and informational sessions. We also encourage the use of home languages through cultural celebrations like Hari Raya, Chinese New Year, Deepavali, International day, assemblies and Multilingualism day. The Parents Association also runs regular cultural exploration events for the school community to learn more about the cultures in our school.

Library and resources

The resources in the school library support the aims of the language policy by providing a diverse collection of materials in multiple languages, including books, multimedia resources, and online databases. The librarian receives guidance on selecting resources from a language perspective through collaboration with language teachers, curriculum coordinators, and educational specialists.

Review and revision of language policy

The language policy at SIS is reviewed annually to ensure alignment with the school's mission, educational goals, and best practices in language education across all year levels and all lessons. The language policy review is conducted by the language department in collaboration with campus principal and senior leader team.