



Costeas-Geitonas School Language Policy

Philosophy

It is our view that structured studies in a mother tongue as well as second language acquisition are both critical in stimulating cognitive development and effective communication in an international environment. Accordingly, language instruction plays a key role in education at Costeas-Geitonas School and all teachers throughout school are viewed as language teachers with responsibilities in facilitating communication.

Language A

Acknowledging that studying a mother tongue in depth enables students to remain connected with their native culture and facilitate the learning of additional languages, Greek is recognised as the school language of instruction and the main Language A subject on offer across the school curriculum with the exception of the IB Diploma programme in which English is required as the official language of instruction.

Language A instruction both in the Elementary and Secondary School is mandatory for all students according to the guidelines of the Greek National Curriculum for Literacy and those of the PYP and MYP programmes respectively.

Recognising that learning difficulties may arise at any time throughout the student's school life, we regard the identification of students with learning difficulties as a continuing process and special provision is made for linguistically 'challenged' students when it comes to assessment.

Language B

At Costeas-Geitonas School we place emphasis on intercultural awareness as a key sociolinguistic skill when it comes to Foreign Language Teaching recognising the need for learners to be equipped with cultural and social awareness as well as language skills in order to become open-minded global citizens.

The vast majority of our students being native speakers of Greek, Language B instruction focuses on English, French and German. However, the option exists for students to take extra-curricular classes in languages such as Chinese, Italian or Spanish upon demand.

As part of the admissions process, the second language level of all students is recorded and this information is used in forming the study schedule for each student according to streams. Under the direction of the coordinators of the language departments in both the Elementary and Secondary School, the school ensures that the prescribed hours of instruction are effectively completed and academic standards are met.

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is used as a reference tool for all three foreign languages in order to facilitate aligning the developing proficiency of learners within a common framework. Moreover, we address our students' need to certify their language skills by timetabling study programmes that prepare them for Language Certificates from A1 to C2 levels.

A range of resources is available to assist teachers with the design, implementation and evaluation of our language programmes which should be age appropriate and directly tied to students' fields of interest and real needs.