

## Haganässkolan Language Philosophy

Our language philosophy is similar to our general philosophy about learning at our school. Our aim first and foremost is that all students should feel safe and happy at school; for this is where learning flourishes best. For students of diverse language backgrounds and needs, we can contribute to their overall happiness and feeling of emotional safety by the way we pre-plan for their needs, take action on our plans to differentiate for student needs in the learning environment, and evaluate those actions, making changes when needed.

Another part of our Philosophy at Haganäs is that students should feel adequately challenged. A student must be able to effectively communicate in their own mother tongue before stretching themselves to communicate effectively in other languages. An “adequate challenge” therefore can mean different things for different students. Assessing the students’ ability in their own mother tongue, and providing support there first, when needed, is essential for their abilities to learn in, and communicate with, other languages.

### Language Policy

Our mission states that we value diversity and cultivate International-Mindedness. How will our students, who come from a diverse language background, succeed at our school and in life-long learning?

### Mother Tongue

First, we must assess students’ abilities in their mother tongue, or strongest language. This can be done through any of the following:

- Report cards from most recent prior learning environment
- A meeting with a mother tongue teacher to assess students’ abilities

From that information or by student choice, a decision is made whether the student will receive Mother Tongue Classes or Mother Tongue Support or a combination of both.. This will be written in a students’ individual study plan.

**Mother Tongue Classes:** These are offered and organized by the Municipality. A student applies for classes and if there are more than 4 students and a teacher, a class will start up.

**Mother Tongue Support:** This is organized by Haganässkolan as follows:

We encourage and give opportunities for all students to read in their mother tongue. They may visit the school library at Haganäs or the International School of Älmhult which boasts reading titles in all of the languages represented at our school\* (\*or can be ordered).

We will develop a list of staff, parents, and older students who are interested and available to help with languages other than English.

Some assignments may be completed in a students’ mother tongue, so long as we have a native speaker who can assist with the interpretation.

#### *Please Note:*

In the PreDP, we allow students to swap the Modern Foreign Language requirement with Mother Tongue classes instead, provided the Kommun is offering the Mother Tongue courses.

If a student is in the Natural Sciences programme in Year 1 and does not have access to mother tongue classes, and does not benefit from taking a year of Modern Foreign Language, we may decide it is best to waive the Modern Foreign Language requirement so the student has more time to self study and improve their English and/or Swedish.

If a student is in the Social Sciences programme in Year 1 and does not have access to mother tongue classes, and does not benefit from taking a year of Modern Foreign Language, we must write a Support Management Plan to allow the student to be excused from taking Modern Foreign Language. In this case, the student, parent, and Head of School must sign the document. When in the case of applying to a Swedish University, the student may need to account for the reason why they didn't take a Modern Foreign Language in Year 1. In this case, the DP coordinator will write a letter of support to explain the situation.

### **Differentiation**

Differentiation at our school is where teachers are proactive instead of reactive in realizing individual student needs. We know we will have students of different language backgrounds, gender, degrees of security, past experiences at school, self-confidence, peer relationships, etc. This means that we take account of each and every student in the class, and plan ahead for how we can help them best reach the goals of the course. We collaborate with the Student Health Team and Special Education teachers, as needed, to make adaptations for students as needed.

**Placement in the DP Language Courses** The language of instruction is English.

The IB stipulates students should have one of the following combinations:

- **At least one** Language and Literature Course
  - **At least one** Language Acquisition Course
- or
- **Two** Language and Literature Courses

While it is possible to have two Language Acquisition courses, it is not considered a "full diploma" but instead known as taking courses or certificates.

We offer English and Swedish as Language and Literature courses.

We offer English and Swedish as Language Acquisition courses.

There are alternatives to the above but it requires a meeting with the Head, Coordinator, and pertinent language teachers.

### **Language course placement guidelines:**

#### English

- A student coming from English Literature course will be placed in English Language & Literature.
- A student coming from an English Language Acquisition course will be placed in the English Language Acquisition course.

#### Swedish

- A student coming from Swedish Literature course will be placed in Swedish Language & Literature.
- A student coming from a Swedish Language Acquisition course will be placed in the Swedish Language Acquisition course.

#### Other languages

- We highly recommend students study Language and Literature in their Mother Tongue. If a student's mother tongue differs from English or Swedish, then we make the decision about Language and Literature placement based on the unique needs of the student.

Online Pamoja courses are coordinated by a teacher on site. Students engaging in a self-taught language course can only do so if they are supported by someone in the global community who speaks the same language and can support them.