RYDE SCHOOL
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Languages Policy

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Owner(s):	GRS	
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PHILOSOPHY

Ryde School believes that all pupils should have the opportunity to acquire and explore the language and culture of other countries.

Through effective communication in another language, pupils are made aware of cultural diversity and are better equipped to understand the global environment in which they live, preparing them to be active participants in multilingual communities at home and around the world.

Access to a foreign language can bring personal and intellectual satisfaction and open up opportunities for meeting people of other nations, experiencing different environments and cultures and taking up residence and work in another area of the world.

We encourage pupils to use their languages for personal and social satisfaction, for use in commercial and diplomatic contexts and for entry into other nations' workforces. With a good working knowledge of other languages our pupils can become true global citizens. However, the study of languages is not just about providing for future careers and employment. It is also about intellectual challenge, a rounded education and an understanding of people and culture beyond our shores, no matter how near that may be.

LANGUAGE PROFILE OF PUPILS AT RYDE SCHOOL

Most pupils at Ryde School have English as their first language. For some boarding pupils, English is not their first language but this is also the case for a few day pupils. All pupils admitted to the School are expected to be proficient in English to the extent that they can access the curriculum within lessons. Where appropriate, pupils with English as an additional language will have lessons to develop their language skills (cf. EAL Policy).

DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE WITHIN THE SCHOOL

All pupils from Reception to Year 11 are required to study at least one foreign language. Different languages are studied at various points in a pupil's development as it is not productive to study one language continuously across this length of time. Our aim is to give pupils the opportunity to experience a variety of different languages earlier on to explore what they enjoy and find most stimulating before focusing on a smaller number in which to specialise as they grow as linguists. The structure of the School's programme is as follows:

- Reception to Year 2: French and Mandarin (1 lesson per week) on a termly carousel.
- Years 3 & 4: Mandarin (1 lesson per week)
- Year 5 & 6: French (2 lessons per week)
- Year 7: 'International Gateway' Curriculum. Pupils take a series of four six week 'journeys' to build a basic foundation in French, Spanish, German and Mandarin. For example:

    - French - A tour round Ancient Gaul with Asterix and Obelix;
    - Spanish - Walking the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route;
    - German - a cultural boat adventure down the river Rhine from its source to Köln; and,
    - Mandarin - journey along the Great Wall of China.
- Years 8 & 9: Pupils choose two languages from French, Spanish, German and Mandarin (3 lessons per week), with EAL as an option as required.
- Years 10 & 11: Within GCSE Options at least one language, and up to three, from French, Spanish, German, Mandarin, or ESL (3 lessons per week).

In the Sixth Form, pupils studying either IB pathway (DP or CP) will be required to study languages as part of their course. We currently offer French, German or Spanish at IB Language B level (standard and higher) and can offer Italian or Japanese at Ab Initio level. Pupils following the IB Career Programme follow the IB Language Development programme. A Level pupils are able to select IB French, German or Spanish as one of their core subjects, or as their enrichment subject. Core language courses are usually taught as IB Language B Higher Level and at Standard Level if an enrichment subject.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

The School supports pupils for whom English is not their native language through EAL and ESL lessons. In Years 7 to 9 pupils take EAL as their first language option. In Years 10 & 11 pupils take GCSE ESL as their compulsory language option and may opt to take other languages as part of their choices. Sixth Form pupils with English as an additional language have two lunchtime EAL sessions per week and take the IELTS qualification at the appropriate time. Any Sixth Form pupil requiring additional EAL support will be required to attend additional one-to-one, or small group lessons.

MOTHER TONGUE AND SELF-TAUGHT LANGUAGE SUPPORT

At Ryde School, we acknowledge the importance of a pupil's mother tongue in promoting personal identity and maintaining his/her cultural heritage. Pupils are encouraged and supported to take qualifications in their own language at the appropriate time irrespective of their current year group.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Management & Leadership

Implementation of the School's Languages Policy is overseen by the Head of Languages whose responsibility extends across the whole school to ensure continuity in each section.

The Head of Department is line managed by the Assistant Head Academic (Senior) with regards to whole school provision and continuity. Within the Senior School each language is overseen by specific teachers who are line managed by the Head of Languages.

Languages Teachers

All teachers at Ryde School are language teachers, however, teachers teaching the acquisition of languages are expected to teach their subject in a way that promotes the confidence and ability to use the language. In addition to the acquisition of vocabulary and grammar skills, teachers should develop the pupils' cultural awareness of the countries that speak the target language.

Detailed arrangements for the teaching and learning of languages at Ryde School are provided within departmental documentation.

Language Assistants

One-to-one tutoring is available with native speakers of French, German and Spanish, and all staff are actively encouraged and supported in their professional development.

SUPPORT & PROFILE

Languages Clinics

Pupils are able to attend regular scheduled language clinics to further language development and to address concerns, difficulties and anxieties arising out of lessons and prep. Clinic details are published at the beginning of the academic year.

Additional Needs

All pupils have access to a language's curriculum regardless of academic, physical, social and personal needs. The School believes that learning a foreign language supports a pupil's understanding of their own language whilst also developing a useful life skill. In the Senior School a pupil with specific learning support may have an Individual Education Programme (IEP) which adjusts their curriculum such that they only study one language during Years 8 & 9.

Trips & Visits

Trips and visits to other countries are seen as an integral part of developing the pupils' use of languages as well as cultural awareness. Overseas trips start in the Prep School in Year 6 and continue in the Senior School with trips to various countries including Germany, Spain, France, Canada and China.

Extra-curricular

During the Autumn Term the languages department organises a Languages Week to celebrate the language and culture of other countries. In addition to languages taught within the School, this event promotes investigating and speaking other languages from around the world.

Throughout the year the department organises a variety of events to celebrate significant cultural days within the calendar of countries in the languages taught at Ryde School.