



RUGBY SCHOOL

Languages Policy

November 2021

Rugby School Languages Policy

Responsibility and Review

The Languages policy is the responsibility of the Assistant Head (Upper School) and will be reviewed annually along with all of the academic policies.

Related Policies

The Rugby School *Languages Policy* should be read with reference to:

1. The SEN, Learning Difficulties and Inclusion Policy

All policies are available on the school website on the Policies page:

<https://www.rugbyschool.co.uk/about/school-policies/>

The IB Mission Statement (<https://www.ibo.org/about-the-ib/mission/>) and Learner Profile (<https://www.ibo.org/benefits/learner-profile/>) are useful reference points in understanding the context of this policy.

Purpose

The purpose of the Language policy is to reflect the international mindset of the school by establishing Rugby School's philosophy in relation to language teaching and learning and set out the principles that provide the structure for the teaching of language at Rugby School.

Philosophy of Language Teaching at Rugby School

Language learning is a fundamental part of Rugby School's commitment to developing the whole person.

Language is the medium through which learning takes place and as a result Language teaching is fundamental to all learning. Consequently, teachers are considered to be language teachers with a responsibility to facilitate communication.

In addition, Rugby is a school that seeks to engage with the world. This is reflected in the history of the school and in its growing family of schools outside the UK. Rugby recognises that in order to understand others from different cultures it is important that we learn to communicate in languages other than our own.

English Language and Literature

English is the language of instruction at Rugby and the language of British society. English is also a language with international reach and relevance as a *lingua franca*. Given this context all students at Rugby School are expected to display a high degree of competence in the English Language. Support for this is provided in the F, E and D Block by compulsory English Language lessons. For students in the Upper School (XX and LXX), English Language or English Literature are options that they may select at A Level. English Literature is offered to students who opt to study for the International Baccalaureate (IB) in Group 1 (Language A: Literature) in the Upper School.

English literature provides an opportunity for students to expand their range of experience and to gain insight into their own society as well as the lives and societies of others. The experience of reading and studying English literature further provides knowledge and understanding of the past as well as an opportunity to think about possible futures. Engagement with literature also encourages students to develop their inner self, their spiritual, moral and emotional lives. Students at Rugby School are all expected to engage with literature. All students in the F, E and D Blocks are required to study English Literature. Students in the Upper School may choose English Literature A Level. If they opt for the IB then they may take English Literature in Group 1 (Language A: Literature), or one of the other Group 1 language on offer.

All students at Rugby have access to the Temple Reading Room (TRR, Library), in which there is a wide range of literature available for borrowing. If a student wishes to read something that is not available in the TRR, then they may ask the Head of Research, Information and Library Services and, provided the text is appropriate and not unduly expensive, it will be purchased and added to the TRR collection. The broader cultural life of the school further supports and promotes English Literature and Language. Opportunities abound and can be found in the *School Calendar* and *Co-curricular Brochure* as well as advertised in the daily bulletin. Such opportunities include school productions, academic enrichment activities and the annual Arts Festival.

Additional Languages

As a broad principle, reflecting the school's international mindset, all students at Rugby are expected to study a second language. Although there may be exceptions to this expectation linked to special educational difficulties and needs, the opportunity to learn one or more additional languages is there for all students at all stages of their Rugby School Career (F Block, E & D Block, and Upper School). All students who opt for the IB in the Upper School must learn at least one language in addition to their mother tongue. The fact that Rugby offers courses in French, German, Italian, Spanish, *ab initio* Mandarin, Latin and Classical Greek reflects the school's commitment to providing opportunities to learn additional languages. In addition, Rugby offers the IB Diploma Higher Level Course in German Literature A for native German speakers and Mandarin Language and Literature (SL) for native Mandarin speakers. Details relating to the language courses offered at each stage of the school (F Block, E and D Block, Sixth Form – IB Diploma and A Level) can be found in the curriculum guides. These are accessed on the Academic pages of the school website (<https://www.rugbyschool.co.uk/school-life/school-life-academic/academic-life/>).

Sustaining mother tongue languages

Rugby School is committed to supporting students who are not native English speakers but who wish to sustain their mother tongue while studying at Rugby. The TRR will add texts in additional languages to its borrowing stock on request, provided they are appropriate and not unduly expensive.

In addition, the school will assist students, where possible, in arranging private tuition in their mother tongue (although the responsibility for sourcing tutoring, along with any tutoring costs, remains with the parents), and will make reasonable allowances to facilitate the study of mother tongue languages. Responsibility for sourcing tutoring in mother tongue languages and for any tutoring costs, however, ultimately remains with the parents of the student concerned. Rugby

School will support students who wish to take additional IGCSE qualifications beyond timetabled lessons in their mother tongue in an administrative capacity. The school will also, as far as is possible given the limitations of staff time, knowledge and expertise, support students taking such IGCSE qualifications, in understanding the nature and content of the examination. In IB Group 1, Rugby School offers Language A: Literature course in German and Language A: Language and Literature (SL) in Mandarin. In addition, it is recognised that a student taking the IB Diploma may wish to engage in a Self-Taught Language A course. In such cases the student will need to discuss their choice with the IB Coordinator and the Head of Modern Foreign Languages. There is an expectation that the parents of the student concerned will also be part of the discussion. If, after weighing up the opportunities and challenges of such a route, the student wishes to proceed with the Self-Taught Language A option, then the school undertakes to provide the following support:

- Timetabled periods for meetings with Mother-Tongue tutor
- Support for student efforts to secure a tutor in their Mother-Tongue (any additional financial cost must be met by the student's parents or guardian)
- Weekly timetabled meetings with a nominated Language A teacher to provide support for their thinking, reasoning, analysis and exam knowledge and to ensure the student is making appropriate progress

The provision of support for Self-Taught Language A courses is the responsibility of the Head of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) who will be the Mother-Tongue Coordinator.

Inclusion

Rugby school is committed to the principle of inclusion. Our commitment is outlined in detail in the *SEN and Learning Difficulties Policy*. In regard to Languages, students with special educational needs and difficulties, or for whom English is an Additional Language (in both cases this is based on our internal assessment of the student's level of language), are eligible for additional support with the Learning Development Department free of charge. In the F, E and D Block this takes place during timetabled Extra English Lessons. In the Upper School this support is timetabled into study periods.

Professional development in language teaching

The school recognises that Language teaching is the responsibility of all of the teaching staff. Therefore, any member of the teaching staff who wishes to develop their competence in language teaching may apply for support for professional development. Any such application should be made to the Deputy Head (Academic) or the Assistant Head (Formation), who oversee professional development.

Parental engagement in language learning

Rugby School welcomes and encourages parental engagement in their children's language learning. At the very least the school asks parents to support the principle of learning a language as a valuable educational experience. The school will work with parents to help them encourage language learning for their child and will make such efforts as are reasonable to accommodate parents and their children to learn languages that are not offered as part of the school's formal taught curriculum.