

**LANGUAGE POLICY  
for  
"COPERNICUS" International Baccalaureate Diploma  
Programme classes**

II Liceum Ogólnokształcące im. Mikołaja Kopernika w Lesznie z Oddziałami Dwujęzycznymi i Międzynarodowymi / IB World School no. 4464 states that:

**The school aims at preparing its students to become active and responsible members of local and global community. It provides education of high academic standards and promotes the development of inquiry skills, critical reflection and independence in thinking. The school puts emphasis on fostering in our students self-confidence, empathy, willingness to help and need to cooperate.**

The IB considers it essential for international education that students learn more than one language. At "Copernicus" we believe that the study of languages provides a powerful means by which one gains understanding of other cultures and that being able to speak a language indicates deep respect for that culture. The school considers multiple language skills as essential to effective learning and recognizes it as the key element in developing multicultural awareness.

The development of language incorporates three concepts: **language learning, learning through language and learning about language.** At "Copernicus", language learning aims to stimulate communication and conversation, enabling students to interact with teachers and peers. Learning through language emphasizes strategies to encourage students to construct knowledge of the world and develop new meanings. Learning about language empowers students to cultivate an understanding of the relationship between language and meaning and how language works.

## **Language diversity at “Copernicus”**

English is the language of instruction in the IB section of the school. It is the common language in which almost all communication and access to the curriculum occurs. As such the support and development of English within the school is very important. English language learning happens across the disciplines and every teacher is required to model the use of language emphasizing clear and concise communication. All our teachers have a responsibility to address the language needs of their students in the language of instruction.

“Copernicus” acknowledges that all of its students will be learning in a language other than their mother tongue. Therefore the school provides opportunity for candidates who are not considered advanced in the language of instruction with additional support through extended programme of English

## **Language A**

This level is for a fluent language user, studying in his or her most competent language. This is the child’s first or native language. Students study literary texts and demonstrate analytical skills in writing and speaking. In case of “Copernicus” students it is the Polish language, their mother tongue. All students of the Polish background in the Diploma Programme study Polish A Literature at either higher or standard level as a Group 1 subject (in accordance with the National educational law- Prawo Oświatowe).The school does not provide the opportunity to learn Polish as Language B or as a school supported self-study course. The school recognizes the importance of developing the students’ ability to use their mother tongue at the symbolic level as a means of creating their mono and multicultural identity.

Students of foreign backgrounds are able to choose English A Language and Literature as their Group 1 subject.

## Language B

Language B is an additional language that is not the student's mother-tongue. It is acknowledged that learning another language greatly contributes to the holistic development of students and is believed to raise achievement in other subject areas. Students learn to communicate effectively in a number of situations, from everyday exchanges to literary texts. In this way they develop mastery of language skills.

### English B

English is compulsory at higher level for all IB students at "Copernicus". Our students are encouraged to use either the British or American variety of the English language. IB students receive 6 teaching hours of English per week.

The goal is for all students to become proficient in English by the end of the programme.

### Other B languages

"Copernicus" students are encouraged to study another language B which builds on their experiences gained in language learning through previous study. German B and Spanish B are taught at both higher and standard levels. The students can study German or Spanish as a diploma subject or as an additional 7th subject. The number of teaching hours per week is determined by the level: 4 at standard and 6 at higher level.

### Ab initio languages

The school offers *ab initio* language courses in German and Spanish for beginners with little or no prior experience of the language. The number of teaching hours per week at *ab initio* level is 4. Students gain a basic level of communication based on everyday exchanges and prescribed situations.

### Polish for non-native students

Students of foreign backgrounds are offered extra classes of the Polish language in accordance with the regulations of the Polish Minister of Education ( Dziennik Ustaw nr 57 poz.361). Additionally, there is a possibility of getting extra guidance from a ‘cultural assistant’ (asystent kulturowy), whose main task is to help non-native students become familiar with culture-related issues.

### **History and Geography**

Geography classes concerning the geography of Poland (1.Tourism and sport at the local and national scale, 2.Changing urban systems, 3.Urban environmental and social stresses, 4.Changing populations and places, 5.Challenges and opportunities, 6.Fieldwork), and History classes concerning the history of Poland (1.Domestic political, economic and social developments in Poland in the inter-war years, 2.Impact of the Second World War on civilian populations of Poland and Great Britain between 1939-1945, 3.Support and cooperation, repression and protest (1945-1968): East Germany; Poland; Hungary; Czechoslovakia, 4.Acceptance of, and opposition to, Soviet control in central and eastern Europe (1968-1989): East Germany; Poland; Hungary and Czechoslovakia; Romania and Bulgaria; role of Walesa and Havel, 5.The economic, social and political challenges of the post-communist era in Poland ) are taught in the Polish language (in accordance with the National educational law- Prawo Oświatowe).

### **Professional Development**

“Copernicus” aims to provide support, workshops and language courses for classroom teachers. Group 1 and 2 teachers receive IB recognized training in their language subject. Non-language teachers receive linguistic support from language teachers and at language courses.

## **Fostering linguistic development and multiculturalism**

At ‘Copernicus’ parents of students are actively involved in planning their children's language profile and development. Special assistance is also provided to those parents who come from different cultural backgrounds and do not speak Polish, ensuring they feel supported and included in the school community. Parents are encouraged to cooperate with teachers to organize informative and educational events. The engagement of parents helps the school foster intercultural understanding and values among young people.

The school organizes a variety of events to celebrate and promote diverse cultures and languages. A school tradition is the implementation of various school-wide projects such as Foreign Languages Day, Mother Tongue Day, and special events highlighting the culture of specific countries and regions. Students also engage in cultural exchanges, participate in international projects and language workshops organized with partners from Germany. These activities foster linguistic development, encourage multicultural understanding and nurture international mindedness.

The school library offers a wide range of resources in various foreign languages, especially in English. The librarians actively consider suggestions from both teachers and students to expand the existing book collection. New books are regularly added and students are encouraged by their teachers to use the library resources.

The school also provides teachers with access to virtual resources that support both the development of linguistic skills and the process of teaching foreign languages.

*In the preparation of this document the following publications have been used: Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme: Guidelines for developing a school language Policy (Peterson House, 2008), Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme: Guidelines for school self-reflection on its language policy (International Baccalaureate Organisation, 2012). Program Standards and Practices International Baccalaureate Organisation (2022).*

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