

Language Policy at Lillestrøm Videregående Skole

The majority of our school community consists of Norwegian students and teachers. The primary working language at the school is Norwegian. However our school community counts 17 % of students and teachers from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. In the IB Diploma Programme 20% of the teachers and the students are non-Norwegians. The working and teaching language is English, except in the non-English language A and B courses.

Lillestrøm Videregående Skole is aware of the importance of good language skills in the teaching language in order to obtain an efficient academic development. All teachers share with the school management, the responsibility of the students' language development. Students with low proficiency in the teaching language will be given extra English courses to enable a better participation and improvement in their subjects.

Lillestrøm videregående skole permits all students to study their own mother tongue and to learn foreign languages. We believe that promotion and learning of foreign languages lead to knowledge and respect for different cultures as well as to a better knowledge and awareness of the own language and culture. We believe that international competencies and language skills will be necessary for our students planning a professional career and meant to live in a global world. We believe that these competencies will be acquired in the language classrooms, but also by being involved in school activities outside the school.

Lillestrøm Videregående Skole wishes to promote the access to the Language A Literature courses for IB students, with another mother tongue than Norwegian but also the access to several language B subjects for all IB students. Lillestrøm Videregående Skole offers two Language A courses at HL and SL, English and Norwegian, as well as Language A selftaught courses supervised by a Language A teacher. Lillestrøm Videregående Skole offers five Language B courses, English, French, German, Norwegian and Spanish. Norwegian B HL is offered to foreign students in order to facilitate their integration in Norway, and to allow them to fulfill the Norwegian Language requirement for University admission.

As a part of the schools international strategy, the school have a tradition to offer all French, German and Spanish B students to sign up for a Linguistic and Cultural exchange with an Upper Secondary School in France, Germany or Spain. These three projects give the students the opportunity to practice the language in family and school immersion as well as to improve their knowledge within culture and civilization.

In order to improve English language skills and to experience different cultural traditions within working, collaborating and study habits, all first year IB students are involved in an

intercultural Group 4 Project where they collaborate with a Spanish IB School (Instituto Bachiller Sabuco).

Lillestrøm Videregående Skole has an important language learning equipment at its disposal. The school's library has reference books in all Languages taught within the IB Diploma Programme as well as free access to several online encyclopaedias. The school's Wi-Fi enables the whole school community to make use of internet and all sorts of digital resources available at any time. The library has also a rich stock of DVDs in English. The school's librarian updates every year the stock of English books that cover the syllabus of the IB subjects offered by the school.

The improvement of language skills in the teaching language is an important part of the IB teachers' professional development. IB Teachers at Lillestrøm videregående skole participate regularly in IB workshops given in English. In addition a priority will be given to their participation in courses in ESP (English for specific purposes).

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