



مدرسة عمان الوطنية
Amman National School

ANS Language Policy

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Language Policy

Amman National School recognizes that language is fundamental to learning. We believe students learn best using their native language through a curriculum that reflects their heritage and cultural identity. A second language is necessary to broaden the students' horizons and to prepare them for our technological and multicultural world.

Language learning is based on the following beliefs:

- Language defines the human identity. It is important in order to preserve heritage, culture and community links.
- Mother tongue language is crucial to support students in their cognitive development.
- Through mastering languages, students are able to clearly and confidently express their thoughts and knowledge orally and in written forms and apply them appropriately.
- Students should be supported in being able to understand and express ideas confidently in more than one language.
- All teachers must consider themselves as language teachers regardless of their academic specialty.
- All members of the school community have a role in developing language learning.
- Schools must offer support for second language learners and students with language difficulties to enhance language learning.

Language Profile of the School Community

Students

- The majority of our students are Jordanians and Arabs, whose parents' native language is Arabic, while English is their second language.
- The student body also includes students from bilingual backgrounds; their native languages are both Arabic and any other language.
- Few students at school speak English as their first language due to living abroad or joining international schools. Some had studied Arabic as their second language.

Staff

- Almost all staff uses Arabic as their first language. The majority of teachers speak English as a second language.
- Teachers and staff of the IBDP Program are all proficient in English

Language of Communication

- Arabic language is the language the school uses to communicate with its community members, and in which it issues all circulars, messages, instructions, and formal reports needed for the implementation of the school's educational programs.
- Arabic language is the language used for school's publications such as brochures, yearbooks, etc.
- English language is used for all official communication with the universities and international organizations including the IBO.
- For recruitment, either Arabic or English is used depending on the needs of the position.

- Professional development is offered in both English and Arabic, depending on the availability and the audience.

Language of Teaching and Learning

Kindergarten

Both Arabic and English are used simultaneously as the languages of teaching and learning. Two teachers work simultaneously in each class, one teacher communicating in Arabic and the other in English. The focus at this age is on being exposed to and acquiring the language, as well as communicating orally.

Grades 1-4

Arabic is the main language of instruction for all subjects (math, science, social studies, etc.). A rigorous Arabic and English curriculum is offered daily to enable students to communicate proficiently in oral and written English.

Grade 5 and Grades 6-8 (IBMYP)

Arabic and English language and literature classes are offered daily focusing on both language and literature. Arabic continues to be the main language of instruction for other subjects (math, sciences, individuals and societies, etc.). Students take sciences, music, and digital and product design in both English and Arabic.

Grades 9-12

- **National Jordanian Program**

Students studying in this program sit for the Jordanian Standard Exam (Tawjihi). Arabic is the main language of instruction following the Ministry of Education's curriculum. An English language curriculum is offered daily.

- **IBMYP and IBDP Programs**

Starting from grade 9, students who have the intention to enroll in the IBDP start using English as the main language of teaching and learning. Students study Arabic language and literature daily. Special Arabic language classes are offered for non-Arabic speaking students.

Languages offered in the IBDP

The school guides students in choosing appropriate language courses, depending on their individual needs and abilities. The school takes into consideration national requirements for Jordanian equivalency certificate for those who wish to obtain one.

Students in the IBDP can choose two language courses from the following:

- Arabic A Language and Literature (Higher - Standard Levels)
- Arabic Language B (Higher - Standard Levels)
- Arabic *ab initio* (Arabic as a foreign language)
- English Language and Literature (Higher - Standard Levels)
- English B (Higher - Standard Levels)

Students in the DP can either take two Language A courses, or one Language A and one Language B course. Decisions on course choice are made jointly with the student and the family. Factors include student's achievement levels in previous language courses, university choices, and other considerations.

Arabic *ab initio* is offered to non-native Arabic speakers.

Special arrangements can be made for students whose mother tongue is not Arabic or English, or who want to study other languages other than the ones offered. In these cases independent study can be considered as an option.

Additional Language Support

ANS has a special education needs department to support students' learning process. This department offers:

- ASL, ESL classes: for students lacking language skills in English or Arabic. Classes are offered in Arabic or English to develop language skills to the appropriate level in order to integrate into mainstream system if possible.
- In class support: This type of support is achieved by the presence of a teacher inside the class to offer assistance to students with learning difficulties in languages.

Admission

- All new students applying to ANS for grades 2-12, undergo an admission test in Arabic and English languages. Accordingly, the school will decide whether the student is able to take courses at his/her grade level or be placed in a supportive language program.
- Language placement tests for incoming high school and upper middle school students are a (non exclusive) factor when deciding whether the student will enroll in the Jordan National Program or the IBDP.

Teachers' Language Development

- The school supports teachers' language development by holding in-service training.
- Language teachers are encouraged to help other teachers in developing their oral and writing skills.
- The school encourages teachers to develop their own language skills.
- Subject coordinators support teachers in ensuring correct language usage.

Resources

ANS provides a variety of resources for language at all grade and age levels. The school Information Centre plays a crucial role in the school language program. Teachers and students use it as an integral part of the curriculum. The Information Centre aims to help students become analytical, critical, and independent readers. It includes Arabic and English literary and non-literary texts both hard, audio visual, and electronic. The collection aims to support all offered subjects at school. The Information Centre helps teachers and staff in supporting their language needs by providing all needed resources.