

SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School School Language Policy

Rationale

Our language policy is to enable students to learn effectively, to be biliterate in English and Chinese and trilingual in English, Cantonese & Putonghua, and to become confident communicators in the languages of the school community, the local community and the global community.

Medium of Instruction (MOI) arrangements

1. Curriculum

- English is the teaching medium in most subjects. This applies to junior and senior classes.
- Subjects offered in S1-S6 using English as the medium of instruction (EMI) are English Language, Mathematics, Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Literacy, Information & Communication Technology, History, Geography, Economics, Business, Accounting & Financial Studies, Economics & Business, Music and Home Economics. Subject content, textbook, assignments and assessment of these subjects are in English.
- Subjects offered in S1-6 using Chinese as the medium of instruction (CMI) are Chinese Language, Chinese Literature, Chinese History, Liberal Studies, Religious Studies (Christianity), Visual Arts, and Physical Education. Subject content, textbook, assignments and assessment of these subjects are in Chinese.
- Small group teachings in English Language, Chinese Language and Mathematics will be arranged in junior forms to cater for students with different language abilities.
- Putonghua is introduced at junior secondary levels to ensure that our students achieve basic proficiency in Putonghua.
- Morning Reading Programme (Chinese and English) and Chinese and English Extensive Reading Schemes are held to promote reading habits.
- Cross-curricular activities are an integral part of the school's curriculum; thus various activities such as speech festivals, debate competitions, story telling competitions, essay-writing competitions, and morning broadcast (including the spoken form of Putonghua and English) are held to develop and improve students' language skills.

2. Measures to enhance EMI learning and teaching

2.1 Supportive role of English Department and the Academic Committee

- The English Department is to provide language support to the EMI subjects through the teaching of classroom language.
- The English Department is also mainly responsible for organizing the summer bridging course for New Secondary One students to adapt to the new learning environment. The main purpose is to help them switch from the Chinese medium of instruction in primary school to the English one in secondary school.

2.2 English-rich school environment

- The English Enhancement Committee is to help promote an English-rich school environment and host English broadcasts. It is also responsible for monitoring the use of English in different extra-curricular activities and school events.

- The English Enhancement Day is an annual school function which aims at enhancing students' English proficiency through different activities.
- Some special activities such as Prize Presentation Assembly, Prefects and SU Executive Members Inauguration, Term Beginning and End-of-term Service are conducted in English.
- Committees and ECA groups are encouraged to organise various English activities to create a language-rich environment.
- Announcements in assemblies or through the PA system are mostly conducted in English.
- Posters, notices and activity leaflets are mainly written in English.
- Teachers are encouraged to talk with students in English outside class time.
- In order to provide a more extensive English environment and enhance the students' exposure to the language, the progressive provision of more EMI subjects is always one of the concerns of the school.

2.3 Resources

- Reading to learn is developed among various subjects to arouse students' interest in reading across curriculum and to enhance language proficiency.
- The school library, which includes a variety of Chinese and English books, audio-visual records, newspapers and magazines, is the resource centre for extending students' language learning during and after class.

3. Teachers' capability to teach through English

- Teachers teaching EMI subjects are all qualified, experienced and professionally trained.
- They are encouraged to attend refresher courses to better equip themselves for the use of English in teaching.

4. Language Choice in HKDSE – school-based regulations

In principle, students are not encouraged to choose the language version of a DSE paper that is different from the medium of instruction the school adopts for that particular subject. If a student intends to request the English version of an examination paper of a particular subject, he/she has to follow the principles and procedures listed below:

- The choice is beneficial to the student's learning and further studies.
- The application has to be made by parents in writing, with detailed explanation.
- Under general circumstances, the student can only make the application in September in the S5 school year.
- On receiving the application, the Academic Master will consult the teachers concerned. The issue will also be discussed at an Academic Meeting before a decision is made.
- If the application is approved, the student can use English to attempt examination/test papers, but subject teachers have no obligation to provide the student with notes and learning materials in English. Examination/test papers will not be translated into English.

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Principal