



## KALUGA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LANGUAGE POLICY

*Initially written: May 2018/ Reviewed: August 2022*

KIS is a dual language school where both the Russian and English languages are valued. English is the language of instruction. Russian, which is the students' mother tongue, is formally taught to students from Grade 2. The aim is to develop bilingual students who are able to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, in both languages.

All teachers are language teachers. We recognize that language is essential to all learning and is the foundation for learning throughout the curriculum. Language is seen as learning the languages, as students use language to communicate in their daily lives; learning about language, as students develop an understanding of how language works; and learning through language, as students use language as a tool to understand, think, and reflect. Language is the major connecting element across the curriculum, with students focusing not only on language for its own sake, but also on the languages of science, humanities, mathematics, and other disciplines.

All communications sent to stakeholders are in English and are translated into Russian in order to reinforce bilingualism throughout the school community.

### **Principles and Practices of Teaching Language**

In order to develop effective communicators we believe that:

1. The language curriculum must be fully integrated into the whole school curriculum. Thus, students use language in a variety of contexts and see it as having relevance in multiple subjects.
2. Students are engaged in a variety of tasks that integrates all language strands. Thus teaching and assessment tasks are designed to actively generate meaningful language through group tasks, presentations, and projects.
3. The learning environment is one that:
  - Supports and promotes verbal expression in a safe atmosphere. Thus students will receive constructive feedback; ample opportunities for interactive orals will be provided; students will be encouraged to make input into their learning.





- Is well resourced. Thus annual budgetary allocations will be used to improve print and electronic library in order to support the scope and depth of the curriculum in both languages; in order to support the IB's philosophy of internationalism; in order to use technology in all aspects of the students' learning; and in order to publish student-generated materials which reflect their learning.
- *Students must be reflective.* Thus students are encouraged to self-assess through the use of discussions of their work with rubrics, through collecting and analyzing their work via portfolios, and through collaboration with peers as their work progresses.
- Staff and students are encouraged to see *language as a system of inter-related structures* and a means of communicating in a variety of situations. Thus students are exposed to a variety of text forms; are asked to determine intended audience, context and purpose; are encouraged to investigate language patterns and uses; and are expected to determine the most suitable form of communication to suit a particular purpose.
- *The four language strands* are integrated throughout all lessons. Thus oral activities precede writing activities; writing activities precede oral activities; speaking and listening are used to express and receive ideas; reading is used to expand knowledge and experiences.
- *Differentiation* is the central element of language teaching and learning. Thus the types and uses of language are thoughtfully applied to suit individual needs, abilities, and learning styles.
- *The staff exemplifies effective communication strategies.* Thus, teachers model a variety of effective reading and writing strategies; demonstrate good speaking and listening habits; and encourage the deliberate use of good language in a variety of situations.





## Language Programmes at Kaluga International School

### English is the Language of Instruction (LOI)

- i. English is the language of instruction at KIS. To ensure that students can access the KIS curriculum, students must meet set admission requirements. Coordinators review past academic reports prior to learner assessment. All applicants are then assessed through language competency tests, observation and interviews.
- ii. Language teaching integrates and develops language skills in reading, writing, viewing and presenting, listening and speaking.
- iii. Language development involves learning communication skills, as well as understanding origins of language and its utilization in forming and developing vocabulary.
- iv. English is the language of instruction and is therefore cross-curricular. Collaboration in planning ensures subject-relevant usage.
- v. Student instruction takes into consideration multiple learning styles and levels of development, thus providing an environment that is conducive to learning. A variety of teaching styles and strategies are utilized, with assessment tasks allowing for differentiation.
- vi. To support the units taught, language skills are emphasized. Exploration and understanding are expressed through formal presentation of work and/ or oral presentations.

### Mother Tongue language

It is imperative that students at KIS continue to preserve and deepen their understanding of the Russian language and, as such, Russian language instruction commencing in Grade 2.

Teachers of the Russian language in the Primary Years Programme contribute to teaching initiatives in the Unit of Inquiry to promote learning through language and to ensure curriculum articulation.

Students, whose mother tongue is Russian, follow the Russian State program and for Middle School in addition to their intensive English program.

### English as an Additional Language (EAL)

At KIS, we are committed to offering a differentiated system of inclusive support to our EAL students. Appropriate scaffolding across all areas of the curriculum is required in order for EAL learners to succeed in achieving their potential. In order to track and monitor students' progress, in addition to informing curriculum design, appropriate assessment and benchmark systems are used. Please reference KIS EAL Policy for more information.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

