

## Safari International School Language Policy

### 1. Philosophy

At Safari International School, we believe that language is fundamental to learning, communication, and cultural identity. As an IB school, we recognize the importance of mother tongue development, second language acquisition, and multilingualism in fostering international-mindedness and lifelong learning. Our approach to language learning is meaningful, inquiry-based, and integrated into real-life contexts, ensuring that students develop strong language skills that support their academic success and personal growth.

We are committed to:

- Providing a rich and supportive language environment where students develop fluency and confidence in multiple languages.
- Supporting mother tongue development as essential for cognitive growth, cultural identity, and academic achievement.
- Encouraging second language acquisition to enhance communication, problem-solving skills, and intercultural understanding.
- Ensuring that language is never a barrier to learning, with appropriate support systems in place for all students.

### 2. Language of Instruction

English is the primary language of instruction at Safari International School. All subjects are taught in English, and we provide English as a Second Language (ESL) support to students who are not yet fluent, ensuring they can fully participate in daily learning activities.

### 3. Second Language: French

French is introduced as a second language starting from age 3 (Nursery class). The approach to French instruction is developmentally appropriate and evolves as students progress:

#### Ages 3–5 (Nursery to Reception)

- French is taught through play-based, vocabulary-rich activities.
- Learning occurs through songs, games, storytelling, and interactive experiences.
- The focus is on building a positive association with the language and developing basic oral communication skills.

#### Ages 5–11 (Year 1 to Year 6)

- French instruction becomes more structured, incorporating textbooks, writing activities, and grammatical development.

- Students gradually progress from basic communication to reading and writing in French.
- French is included in the Units of Inquiry (UOI) when students reach a sufficient proficiency level to integrate it into transdisciplinary learning.
- If a student's French proficiency is not yet sufficient, it is taught as a stand-alone subject with the goal of developing foundational language skills for effective communication.

#### 4. Mother Tongue Support

We recognize that strong mother tongue development enhances academic success and cognitive growth. To support this:

- Workshops for parents are conducted to help families understand how to support their child's language development at home.
- An online library provides access to resources in various foreign languages to encourage reading in the mother tongue.
- Where possible, we facilitate additional language learning opportunities to support students in maintaining their home language skills.

#### 5. Additional Language Learning Opportunities

- Based on parental requests, Safari International School offers optional extracurricular language programs beyond English and French (Mandarin, Arabic, Russian).
- These programs provide students with the opportunity to explore additional languages in a structured and engaging manner.

#### 6. English as a Second Language (ESL) Support

For students who are not yet fluent in English, we provide a structured ESL support program that includes:

- Targeted language support sessions to develop speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.
- Differentiated classroom instruction to ensure students can engage in learning while building their English proficiency.
- Peer support systems to encourage interaction and practical language use.

Our philosophy is that language should never be an obstacle to learning, and we are committed to ensuring that all students feel confident and capable in an English-speaking learning environment.

#### 7. Language Learning Approach

At Safari International School, language learning is:

- Meaningful and inquiry-based – Students learn languages in real-life contexts, making learning engaging and relevant.
- Supportive of cognitive and brain development – Multilingualism enhances problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity.
- A key to cultural appreciation and international-mindedness – Language learning fosters open-mindedness, reflection, and a global perspective.
- Essential for lifelong learning – Strong language skills equip students for future academic and professional success.

## 8. Conclusion

Our language policy reflects our commitment to multilingualism, intercultural understanding, and student-centered learning. We believe that by fostering mother tongue development, second language acquisition, and a love for language learning, we are empowering our students to become confident communicators, critical thinkers, and global citizens.

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our students and aligns with the principles of the IB framework.