

Language Policy 2023





Olga Gudynn Int'l School



Note for Parents

Dear OGIS parents,

At OGIS, our school policies are rooted in IB philosophies and practices. We aim to embody the principles of the IB learner profile and the mission in each of our policies.

Our policies have been developed via discussions with teachers, psychologists, parents and students to determine both the content and its priorities. These are the policies we have as an IB World School:

1. Admissions
2. Inclusion
3. Language
4. Assessment
5. Academic Integrity

OGIS is a growing and diverse community and this is a source of pride for our school that we embrace our Romanian identity while appreciating and including students of all identities, social situations, learning abilities and language abilities, as long as we can cater for their particular needs. Our school policies are intended to embrace and encourage our diversity.

We look forward to working at home and at school to ensure that our students receive a quality education that meets our high standards and the standards of the International Baccalaureate.

Thank you in advance, for reading these policies thoroughly.

Warmest regards,

Lucia Serban Principal	Andra Anton Vice Principal & IB Head of School	Jack Constant DP Coordinator & IB Coordinator	Cristina Dobre MYP Coordinator

IB Language Policy

Olga Gudynn International School

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Olga Gudynn International School is an IB World School which is authorised to deliver the Diploma Programme (DP).

Olga Gudynn International School is a candidate school* for the Middle Years Programme.

* Only schools authorised by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme (DP), or the Career-related Programme (CP).

Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted.

For further information about the IB and its programmes visit <http://www.ibo.org>

OGIS Mission

Through its educational and formative character, Olga Gudynn Int'l School (OGIS) aims at a well-organized and structured educational system that includes knowledge, beliefs, and behavioral patterns, thus contributing to the formation of a well-balanced personality in accordance with the demands of today's global society.

Our Core Values

In today's society, which is marked by constant change and rapid modernization, academic achievements are not enough to create successful people. The successful people of today's and tomorrow's world respect values such as **empathy, tolerance, creativity, modesty, integrity and respect**. We have high expectations from our students in this regard and we call on parents to work together to encourage students to be **actively involved** in academic and extracurricular activities so as to **shape their character** and **develop their skills, demonstrate responsibility and autonomy in their own education, form relationships based on respect and compassion**, and **take the initiative to spread kindness** around them.

Our teachers aim for the holistic development of each student, not only by cultivating their intellect, for it is not enough to simply meet the requirements of the curriculum, but also by creating the environment required for:

- Challenging the intellect and developing practical skills
- Stimulating critical thinking, creativity and innovation in any field of knowledge
- Providing education with respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms
- Demonstrating a spirit of tolerance and inclusion
- Cultivating sensitivity to human dignity and moral-civic values
- Promoting transparency - which involves dialogue and the free exchange of views
- Encouraging accountability for one's actions
- Inspiring respect for nature and the environment

Our school prepares students for the demands of modern society so that, at the end of their school experience, students are prepared for higher education in Romania and abroad. OGIS is an IB-certified school and through the Diploma Programme, aims to develop internationally minded students who will become active global citizens and leaders of the future.

Our Vision

OGIS aims to become internationally recognized as a school that develops and empowers future innovators and leaders that shape the world of tomorrow.

IB Learner Profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

As IB learners we strive to be:

Inquirers	We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.
Knowledgeable	We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.
Thinkers	We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.
Communicators	We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.
Principled	We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.
Open-Minded	We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.
Caring	We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.
Risk-Takers	We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.
Balanced	We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.
Reflective	We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.



OGIS, in support of the **IB Learner Profile** and our **IB curriculum**, also champions the aims and goals of the International Baccalaureate Mission:

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Statement of Philosophy

English and Romanian are the official languages of Olga Gudynn International School. We view language as decisive to developing thinking and inquiry and thus creates opportunities to challenge first language speakers and to develop second language speakers. We aim to develop each student's competence with language in reading, writing, listening and speaking by utilising activities across interdisciplinary communication. Through participation in our academic programs, students will be able to further their understanding of the studied language and to explore and enjoy a variety of literature, informational texts and media, in order to create a cultural foundation for their future.

We consider that the capacity for a student or teacher to communicate in more than one language facilitates students' movement beyond their first language and national culture, increasing their awareness of the world and eventually enabling them to participate more fully in life as citizens of one world. Our philosophy is:

- All languages are equal.
- Culture is language; language is culture.
- Respecting Mother Tongue learning is key to our development.
- Knowledge can be transferred from one language to another.
- Language must be taught in an integrated way.
- Language development is a shared responsibility.
- Language is more than knowing words and eloquence increases self-worth.

As a Bilingual School

OGIS is accredited by the Romanian Ministry of Education as a bilingual school that uses English and Romanian as languages of instruction in different disciplines. Our student body is mainly made up of Romanians (95%) currently and while we have international students, their knowledge of Romanian is comprehensive. Secondly, the staff body is also mainly Romanian (85%), but about 15% of the staff is international. This number has been steadily growing in the last three years.

Our school fully supports the idea of *additive bilingualism*, which occurs when students acquire a second language with neither detriment to development in their first language, nor a loss of esteem for their own culture, whether academic, cognitive, linguistic or social. As such:

- Signage around the school is bilingual.
- The school's website is bilingual.
- Spoken communication with external stakeholders is in the language of their preference.

We commit to:

- Developing a process for official external communication to be bilingual.
- Raising the use of English by staff through specialised lessons.

Languages in Preschool, Primary & Middle School

For classes following the national curriculum the language of instruction and learning is primarily Romanian. Some classes will be taught in English in line with our bilingual identity. In the High School, some of the subjects such as Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, History, and Geography are taught bilingually with English as the second language of instruction.

For IB Diploma Programme classes the language of instruction and learning is English for all subjects except Romanian A: Literature – where the language of instruction is Romanian – and subjects from the group Language acquisition – if other than English.

Instruction in the two languages is provided from the early age of 2. OGIS aims at students developing fluency and skills in both languages. Therefore, in the pre-primary school, our children are primarily taught in Romanian, but they do have contact time with English throughout the week.

In the primary school, equal weight is given to the two languages in the school schedule. Students are exposed to both languages in everyday interactions in the classroom and outside the classroom. The academic level of learning is shared between both languages, giving both equal weight. Primary school students will also study a 3rd foreign language (French or German) as a mandatory lesson from the 1st grade. Middle school students continue to study both languages at a bilingual level. In the 5th grade, the students will continue to study a 3rd foreign language (French, German or Spanish) as a compulsory additional language.

Language learning options in OGIS's MYP (2023-2024)

Recognizing that providing language opportunities for our student body is crucial for their future success for all students, OGIS MYP language learning options include the following:

- MYP Language and literature course (Romanian)
- MYP Language acquisition course (English)
- Students who are not proficient in Romanian/English will receive support from a Romanian/English teacher
- Support for mother tongues.

Language learning options currently being developed

As we work to achieve our vision, we recognise the requirement to develop more language learning options for our student body. While we have courses for these languages, we wish to fully include them under the same umbrella.

- MYP Language and literature course (English)
- MYP Language Acquisition course (Spanish/ French/ German)
- Host country support (Romanian)
- Fully bilingual courses (Sciences)

Language and Literature

All MYP students at OGIS are required to study the course of Romanian Language & Literature. This is a legal requirement of the school's current accreditation by the Ministry of Education.

Language Acquisition

OGIS students at OGIS take English as their language acquisition course. The school additionally provides German, French, or Spanish courses that range from the emergent to the proficient level.

Language learning options in OGIS's DP (2023-2024)

GROUP 1: Studies in language and literature - Language A

Romanian A: Literature HL/SL

This course aims at exploring the various manifestations of literature as a particularly powerful mode of writing across cultures and throughout history. The course aims at developing an understanding of factors that contribute to the production and reception of literature—the creativity of writers and readers, the nature of their interaction with their respective contexts and with literary tradition, the ways in which language can give rise to meaning and/or effect, and the performative and transformative potential of literary creation and response.

This is a direct continuation of *Limba si literatura Romana* from the National Romanian Curriculum.

English A: Language and Literature HL/SL

The English A: language and literature course aims at studying the complex and dynamic nature of language and exploring both its practical and aesthetic dimensions. The course will explore the crucial role language plays in communication, reflecting experience and shaping the world, and the roles of individuals themselves as producers of language. Throughout the course, students will explore the various ways in which language choices, text types, literary forms and contextual elements all affect meaning.

This is an advanced course for students who are either a) very proficient in *English as a foreign language* or b) English is a native language.

GROUP 2: Language Acquisition

English B HL/SL

Language B is a language acquisition course designed for students with some previous experience of the target language. Students further develop their ability to communicate through the study of language, themes and texts.

There are five prescribed themes: identities, experiences, human ingenuity, social organization and sharing the planet. Both language B SL and HL students learn to communicate in the target language in familiar and unfamiliar contexts.

This is a direct continuation of *English as a foreign language* from the National Romanian Curriculum and for students who are less confident with English.



CEFR Level	English B		English A: Language and Literature	
	SL	HL	SL	HL
C2				
C1		7	7	7
B2+	7	6	6	6
B2	6	5	5	5
	5	4		4
B1	4	3		
A2	3	2		

[Benchmarking Diploma Programme language courses to the CEFR \(2022\)](#)

DP Language learning options currently being developed

As we work to achieve our vision, we recognise the requirement to develop more language learning options for our student body. While we have courses for these languages, we wish to fully include them under the same umbrella.

- DP Spanish B (SL/HL)
- DP German B SL
- DP French B SL

Mother Tongue Support

OGIS is a Romanian and English bilingual school, but we acknowledge that maintaining a mother tongue is beneficial to learning when working in a second or third language. It is important that we both, at school and home, provide support in finding the opportunity for students to access their first, or mother-tongue, languages.

Mother Tongue in the Romanian National Curriculum

Mother tongue is also referred to as first language, native language, home language; it's the students' most competent language. Learning a mother tongue is a compulsory requirement at all grades of a school. For the majority of students the native language is Romanian. Students in Romania can learn their mother tongue alongside Romanian as a language course.

The study of the Romanian language involves reading and analysing literary works and learning the language systems. It is mandatory for all students to attend these classes from years Preg. to Year 10.

Potential forms of mother tongue support:

- Library World Languages collection development with the support of the OGIS community.
- Mother tongue classes/clubs (peer tutoring, parent instructors or language tutors)
- Students not proficient in Romanian will be provided extra support in order to improve their understanding of the language.

Creating a Mother Tongue Class

Olga Gudynn International School is supportive of looking into options for mother-tongue language study for our students.

If a request for a course is made by parents after consulting with the IB Coordinator and Careers Counsellor, the school will help to best of its ability with the management of following elements:

- Assist in identifying a suitable tutor.
- Provide the space to deliver a suitable course. If the timetable permits, lessons may be scheduled during the regular school day.
- **The parent(s) will commit to paying the tutor for his/her services.** This is a private arrangement between the tutor and the families for which the school has no responsibility.
- The tutor will aid families with finding appropriate materials for the class

Mother tongue in the IB Diploma classes

It is expected that every student takes a compulsory first language (Language A) course in their most competent language, which is normally the language students have been exposed to since birth. For the majority of students it is Romanian. Therefore, it is Romanian A Literature that is offered to students as Group 1 subject. Students may choose between Standard Level (SL) and Higher Level (HL) and the number of classes taught for this subject a week is 3 for SL and 5 for HL. In this way the school ensures that students' mother tongue is developed by the teacher(s) of the subject.

Due to our bilingual nature, we also offer English A: Language and Literature for a) students who wish to have the bilingual diploma and b) students who speak English as a native language.

Learning of the host country language (Romanian for non-native students)

Romanian A: Literature may be studied by students of foreign backgrounds provided that their language skills are good enough to understand, analyse and interpret literature and produce written assignments. Otherwise, students may be offered additional lessons of the Romanian language in order to improve their skills to such a level at which studying Romanian as DP Group 1 subject is possible and doesn't impose unnecessary burden on them.

Support for the students' mother tongue if different from Romanian

A student may study a different Language A at Standard Level registering for Language A: Literature as a school-supported self-taught course. The DP Coordinator will inform them on the need to identify a tutor, who will be provided suitable course materials. Consultation meetings with the DP Coordinator take place within regular school hours. The students/parents commit to identifying the tutor and paying them for the services – this is a private arrangement between the tutor and the families, for which the school has no responsibility.