

COWLEY INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



Languages Policy

2022-2023

Status	NON-STATUTORY
Delegated to	Principal
Responsible Person	Assistant Head (Curriculum Developer)
Review Date	
Ratified Date	

Author: Assistant Head (Curriculum Development) i/c Mandarin

Aims

As a former specialist UK Language College and now as an International College, we aim to develop international citizens and understand that their successful acquisition of modern foreign languages plays a pivotal role in the success of this aim. Our language policy reflects a comprehensive approach to meeting the language needs of our students in all aspects of language acquisition.

Our broader aims are to:

- develop students' understanding of their own culture and their own language
- enable students to develop Key Skills through their language lessons
- enable all students to develop an ability to work independently
- give students the opportunity to communicate with native speakers and go to the countries where the languages are spoken, to enable them to put into practice the skills learnt in class i.e. visits, trips, exchanges and FLAs
- encourage uptake at GCSE/ A level by attending Language Enrichment Days offered by the Routes into Languages North-West programme with a specific focus on offering places to specific groupings

Identification of need

The college carries out an audit of all new students to identify languages spoken at home as well as those learnt in primary schools. Support is offered in languages identified through the audit, and adjusted according to individual needs by the SLT Lead for English, as well as the SEND co-ordinator. In addition, the Head of Modern Foreign Languages assesses the students' individual needs with regard to their readiness to learn an additional language.

As part of this process, students study at least one modern foreign language (French or German) in lower school and the majority of students have to take at least one modern foreign language at GCSE. At the moment, other languages on offer in the college include Spanish and Mandarin. Students who are identified as having above average ability in Modern Foreign Languages are offered the additional chance to join our Mandarin course in Year 7. Many of these students then continue to take Mandarin up to GCSE and beyond.

Language of Instruction (English)

The programme is structured to encourage risk-taking, inspire intellectual curiosity and embrace learning skills. Spelling and grammar are taught in context and vocabulary is commensurate with the students' knowledge of the subject. Language Teaching is the responsibility of all teachers regardless of their specialised subject discipline. All students follow courses in English to at least GCSE and all instruction and teaching is given entirely in English, apart from courses in MFL.

Increasingly, some students arrive at Cowley International College not speaking English as their first language, and on rare occasions, not speaking English at all. In both situations, considerable support is available for these students.

Students who can speak some limited English are assigned a teaching assistant over the first few days and weeks of lessons as required. These teaching assistants support the day-to-day life of the students until a proper assessment can be made of their ability to cope with the curriculum, including Chinese Mandarin. The assistant teachers flag their needs to the SEND department who put together a package of support tailored to their individual needs. This might include a reduced curriculum to allow for English support lessons, support from the Local Authority to include specialist language support as required, the use of individuals who the students can speak to at any time and the purchase and deployment of electronic dictionaries to support learning.

Modern Languages Department

The principal aims of the Modern Languages Faculty are to provide students with the skills required to communicate in a modern foreign language by the end of GCSE. Students are allocated to either French or German in Year 7 (alternating between them on a year-by-year basis). Students who have been assessed by their primary school teachers to have an aptitude for languages are also offered the opportunity to study Mandarin. Students who opt to take Mandarin do so in addition to their European Language. They do so for a minimum of 2 years, at which point they are able to choose to continue with Mandarin or their European Language.

Throughout all their foreign language acquisition, students are taught the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking while covering a wide range of grammar and topics. In achieving these aims, the subject enables students to acquire knowledge and understanding of the foreign language, to develop language-learning skills and to develop cultural awareness. All students are able to study a Foreign Language in the sixth form, either by choosing to study a European Language at A Level or by opting to take Mandarin through HSK1/4/5 and/or via the IB Diploma Mandarin B SL course. Learning a modern language encourages a positive approach towards our multicultural society and provides students with important skills for today's increasingly global environment.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

As English is the language of instruction at Cowley International College, it is essential that EAL students are equipped with the tools of that language to help them access the whole curriculum. Students are given support sessions in their acquisition of English in college time when required.

Mother Tongue

It is the college's policy that students who speak a language other than English at home should not study that language as part of their everyday curriculum. However, the college will facilitate GCSE exams in their mother-tongue language (recent examples include Portuguese, Polish, Arabic, Turkish, Italian and Mandarin). These exams are not taken before Year 10. The college will also facilitate GCSE exams in other languages where these are available and when the college has access to an appropriate examiner for any oral components.

The profile of represented mother tongue languages is raised through inclusion in the G&T programme, assemblies and dedicated events such as the Primary Languages Afternoons, Languages Day and theatrical performances. The college encourages and assists individuals

wishing to enter for external exams. The college has also introduced language enrichment sessions this year where EAL pupils teach their native language to their peer groups. Sessions have taken place in Cantonese, Portuguese and Italian

At Key Stage 5, the college adheres to the IBO policy of ensuring that students are entered for a language and level that provides an appropriate level of challenge for the student. This is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Key points of support

- Evaluation of individual language needs prior to arrival at the college.
- Assessment of English support requirement and implementation of support as part of SEN provision.
- Information and a variety of resources are available in the Library upon arrival in Year 7.
- Support of individual students to continue with their home language when requested.

Developing Language

All teachers are seen as having a role in developing the students' use of language through developing students' knowledge of appropriate subject-specific language and through modelling appropriate styles for written and oral language linked to specific subjects to enable students to develop skills for clarity of expression and fluency. This includes following college policies for DEAR (Drop everything and Read) and the "Word of the Week".

The college introduced the Language Leaders Award in 2023, which works with Year 10 students to develop student leadership and linguistic skills. This involved a series of lessons designed to develop teaching skills and prepare lessons to teach in languages in a primary school. Year 12 students helped to plan lessons and worked with the Year 10 students on using target language whilst delivering the sessions.