



SAGE COLLEGE – POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

LANGUAGE POLICY

1.1 Introduction

Language is simply the key to learning. Sage College provides a high quality British education in English while encouraging mother tongue development in Sociales and Lengua. In order to enrich personal growth and enhance international understanding, students should express knowledge and ideas confidently and creatively at a fluent level in English as well as Spanish. We create a supportive and inclusive environment where students can successfully develop their language proficiencies.

1.2 School Language Profile

The language of instruction at Sage is English; however some of our students are not native English speakers. Some students are fluent at Spanish and in English, however others are just beginning their journey at a beginner or intermediate level. A number of our students do not have either English or Spanish as a mother tongue and speak one and sometimes even two other languages at home. With this complex language situation in our school population, language learning is an important part of our curriculum.

1.3 English, the language of the school

Since it is the goal of the school to educate students to become highly competent and fluent speakers, readers and writers of English, the school expects students to work hard to achieve this goal and parents are expected to support their children through this process.

It is recognized that fluency in English is at least partly dependent on the amount of time and the variety of situations in which English is used.

Therefore all students, faculty and administration will use English as the language of communication on campus, including for the purpose of social interaction. English is the language of inclusion at the school.

Sage wants to have a supportive and inclusive environment where students cooperate and are active in, enhancing their English language proficiency. We will offer a language support system and material students and parents. However students need to be active and willing to put in extra effort to keep up with their native-English speaking peers and to access the curriculum.

1.4 Policy Aim



To improve the extent of the use English for social, international and academic reasons as well as speaking on the school premises, while giving students the opportunity to converse in their mother tongue in Spanish and Sociales lessons.

1.5 Policy Rationale

We are a British International School, comprising of both local and international students and teachers teaching the British curriculum.

Parents rely on the School to employ all reasonable means to ensure their children leave the School with an excellent command of English.

In an international community, a lingua franca represents a cohesive force.

Immersion (as far as is reasonable and possible) is the most effective method of developing language skills.

The development of English language skills is the direct responsibility of every member of staff.

1.6 Policy Statement

English will be spoken by all staff and students in all areas of the school throughout the school day from 8.45 am-4:45pm, including breaks (apart from the subjects Lengua y Literatura, Sociales, other foreign languages, like French and Chinese, and those of Bachillerato Sage). All staff will use English, where practically possible, in the office and other support areas, and especially in the presence of students and teaching staff.

1.7 Exceptions

- Lengua and Sociales classrooms
- Foreign language classrooms
- Bachillerato Sage
- Talking to parents/visitors
- Emergency situations/health issues with the School Nurse
- School Physiologist meetings
- Locally employed auxiliary staff or contractors who are not bilingual

1.8 Language, rewards and discipline in Secondary

The school will be working with staff and students to create situations and cultures that enhance language acquisition, including positive rewards, student peer support and opportunities for students to make their language learning visible. In the classroom students must be seen to be



making positive effort and practicing, those who derail these opportunities will be subject to the disciplinary procedures.

1.9 The behaviour Ladder for SPEAKING ENGLISH (Primary)

Speaking in English is a Primary School Rule, therefore, as with other behaviour breaches, if this rule is broken children enter onto the behaviour ladder. The same sanctions apply as per other behaviour breaches.

1. First occurrence- A reminder of the expectation is given
2. Second occurrence- Dojo points are taken off
3. Third occurrence- A letter is sent home to parents
4. If 3 letters are sent home over the term, parents will be called in for a meeting to discuss and create a specific plan to support the child in their use of English at Sage College

1.10 The rewards (Primary)

Positive praise and recognition will be given to children based on their use of English and their progression. Weekly, an English Speaker of the week will be formally recognised from each Key Stage.