

A decorative vertical bar on the left side of the page, composed of horizontal segments in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and green, matching the school's branding.

Language Policies – IB Programmes

2025 – 2026

Riffa Views International School (RVIS) - Language Policies – IB Programmes

Prepared By SLT:

Michael Donaldson - School Principal

Noora Al Khalifa - Head of Secondary

Tanya Surawski - Head of Primary

Zahi Wehbe - Head of *Innovation Hub*

Jason Russell - Head of Pastoral Care

DOCUMENT CONTROL	
Policy Reference	Language Policies – IB Programmes - RVIS -25-021
Date Adopted	August 2025
Last Review Date	August 2025
Next Scheduled Revision (yearly)	April 2026

Language Policies – IB Programmes (RVIS)

PYP Language Policy

1. Philosophy

At RVIS, language is central to all learning and fundamental to identity, personal growth, and intercultural understanding. In the PYP, language is not just a subject but a key tool for inquiry, thinking, and communication. We believe that language learning should be intentional, inclusive, and aligned with the developmental needs of each student.

2. Languages at RVIS – PYP Context

Language of Instruction: English

Full Language Program (National): Arabic

Enrichment Language: French

3. Language Learning in the PYP

Language development in the PYP includes learning language, learning about language, and learning through language. Instruction is embedded within all units of inquiry and subject areas.

4. Support for English Language Development

English language development is supported through differentiated instruction delivered by classroom teachers, integration of strategies such as modeling, visuals, and scaffolded learning experiences.

5. Arabic Language Program

Arabic is taught to all students as a core subject, following the Bahrain national curriculum. It promotes reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills and cultural appreciation.

6. Role of Teachers and Leaders

Classroom teachers embed English language development, Arabic teachers deliver the Arabic program, and the leadership team ensures implementation.

7. Language and the Library

The library provides English and Arabic books, digital tools, and inquiry resources.

8. Communication with Parents

Communication is primarily in English, with Arabic translation provided when necessary. Parents are encouraged to support language development at home.

9. Policy Review

Reviewed every three years or with significant program or community changes.

MYP Language Policy

1. Philosophy

Language is a tool for learning and a means of cultural identity. Language learning is essential to international mindedness and academic success in the MYP.

2. Languages at RVIS – MYP Context

Language of Instruction: English

National Language Program: Arabic

Language Acquisition (Exploratory): French, Spanish

3. MYP Language Pathways

Students engage with at least two languages: English Language and Literature, and Arabic, French, or Spanish as Language Acquisition.

4. Language Instruction Goals

Develop proficiency, build cognitive and cultural awareness, and support learning across the curriculum.

5. Support for English Language Development

Supported by subject teachers through differentiated strategies and scaffolded tasks.

6. Arabic Language Program

Follows the Bahrain national curriculum. Differentiated for native and non-native learners. Promotes national identity.

7. French and Spanish Language Acquisition

Exploratory options developing beginner proficiency, communication, and cultural awareness.

8. Language and the Curriculum

Language learning is integrated across all subjects with support from ATL skills.

9. Role of the Library and Digital Resources

Supports language learning through diverse reading materials and access to digital tools.

10. Policy Review

Reviewed every three years with input from staff, students, and families.

DP Language Policy

1. Philosophy

Language is essential for expressing ideas, engaging with global issues, and developing intercultural understanding. Language learning in the DP prepares students for university and lifelong communication in diverse contexts.

2. Languages at RVIS – DP Context

Language of Instruction: English

Group 1: English A (SL and HL)

Group 2: Arabic B (SL and HL), French ab initio, Spanish ab initio

3. Language Course Placement and Pathways

Students take English A for Group 1. For Group 2, they choose between Arabic B or ab initio options in French or Spanish.

4. Goals of Language Instruction in the DP

Fluency, comprehension, appreciation of literature and media, and critical language awareness.

5. Support for English Language Development

Provided by all teachers through subject-specific vocabulary, writing guidance, and academic feedback.

6. Maintaining and Valuing Arabic

Arabic B supports language proficiency and cultural literacy and is celebrated across campus life.

7. French and Spanish ab initio

For students new to the language. Focus on everyday communication and cultural understanding.

8. Extended Essay and TOK Considerations

TOK is taught in English. EEs are usually written in English but may be written in other DP language subjects in accordance with IB guidelines.

9. Library and Language Resources

Academic and recreational texts in all offered languages and access to bilingual tools and databases.

10. Policy Review

Reviewed every three years or with programmatic changes. Feedback informs adjustments.