

## The IB Diploma Programme at St. Olav videregående skole Language Policy

St. Olav videregående skole appreciates and promotes the importance of good language skills in both the student's mother tongue and in foreign languages. All teachers share a responsibility to help students develop their skills in English as the teaching language of the IB Diploma at St. Olav vgs.

Though the working and teaching language of the IB Diploma is English, the primary working language of the school is Norwegian. The majority of the school community has Norwegian as their mother tongue. There are two Norwegian languages Bokmål and Nynorsk. Textbooks are produced in both languages. All students in the Norwegian system must study both languages but if they have a different mother tongue they are only required to take the examination in the language of their choice. All students understand both languages. Bokmål is the predominant language of the district.

St. Olav videregående skole IB Programme:

- encourages every student to study their own mother tongue at Language A. A Language A teacher is appointed as a supervisor for school support self-taught (SSST) candidates. The school will work with the student to locate a tutor in the target language but the cost of this will lie with the student. This tutor will help with developing language skills and advising on language issues as well as reading essays.
- offers two Language A classes, Norwegian and English. Literature and Language & Literature courses are offered at HL and SL in both languages.
- offers classes in Language B English, Norwegian, Spanish, French and German. For the latter three languages, these subjects are offered as one year SL courses where IB students attend classes with students from the Norwegian national programme. IB students will be given an additional IB specific lesson once a week to prepare them for the IB examination.
- promotes the learning of Norwegian, the language of the country and recognises the importance of learning Norwegian as a means of integrating into the community and gaining a better understanding of Norwegian culture. Those not taking Norwegian as part of their diploma are given the option to join the Norwegian B class should there be available places. The majority of students will have Norwegian as part of their diploma. This is a requirement for Norwegian universities and also a requirement for students seeking financial support from the Norwegian government for further studies. This rule applies regardless of whether a student will study in Norway or not.
- offers additional support in the first term of the Norwegian B course for those students new to the study of the Norwegian language to enable them to join the regular class. Because the IB does not offer Norwegian ab initio, the basic requirement for starting study of Norwegian B is level A2 on the CEFR guidelines for language proficiency. In addition, it is expected that students in this situation will attend private Norwegian courses outside of school, and at their

own expense, to enhance their Norwegian language capabilities to the level required for the study of Norwegian B.

- requires students to have a certain proficiency in English before starting the Diploma Programme but does not require total fluency in the language. The basic English language requirement for the IB Diploma at St. Olav vgs is level B2 on the CEFR guidelines for language proficiency.
- provides extra English classes to students who are weak in English to enable them to participate fully in the classes of the IB Diploma.
- supplies a well-stocked library with reference books in both English and Norwegian. Novels are available in a variety of languages. The school also provides free access to online encyclopaedias and academic journals. Students are required by the school to have a personal laptop for use in school and free wi-fi is provided.
- has a large stock of print and digital media, most of which are in English.
- St Olav conducts a number of student surveys every year. These are available in Norwegian and English.
- St Olav communicates with students via SMS. These messages are sent in both Norwegian and English.
- Students are required to agree to a list of safety procedures in the science subjects. This list is available in both Norwegian and English.
- St Olav's website is in both Norwegian and English.