



ROGALAND
FYLKESKOMMUNE



IB Diploma Programme at St Olav videregående skole

Language Policy

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International Baccalaureate Mission Statement

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 organisation works with schools, governments, and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage young people across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people with their differences can also be right.

St. Olav videregående skole Mission Statement

We are diversity, we create mastery, we offer opportunity.

Diversity: We are inclusive and have a place for all. We embrace different ideas and personalities. We vary instruction and offer individual accommodations.

Mastery: We motivate each other and want to learn. We develop individually through social and academic collaboration. We are curious, persistent, creative and optimistic.

Opportunity: We are open for learning now and in the future. We offer wider variety of subject choices for future study and career. We grow as individuals.

Student democracy at St. Olav vgs

All tutor groups at St. Olav vgs are represented in the Student Council. The student council meets six times per school year with the representative for the Head of School and the Student Environmental Officer to discuss issues related to student academic and social environment.

The Student Board is comprised of one class representative from each year group and has direct contact with the Head of School. They meet six times per school year with Head of School, a member of the school management team and the Student Environmental Officer. Meetings take place prior to the Council meetings and arrange the agenda for these. This ensures that student voices are heard, represented and have an influence on school life and policy.



St. Olav videregående skole appreciates and promotes the importance of good language skills in both the student's main language 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. Most of the school community has Norwegian as their mother tongue. There are two Norwegian written 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 first/main language they are only required to take the examination in the Norwegian language of their choice. Bokmål is the predominant language of the district.

Where deemed necessary and appropriate within Norwegian regulations, students and parents will be invited to meet with the IB Coordinator to discuss the student's language profile and to outline a plan for development.

How does St. Olav vgs support student language in their IB Diploma Programme?

- encourages every student to study their own main language 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 with written and oral assessments,
- offers taught Language A courses – Literature A and Language & Literature A - in Norwegian and English. These 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 IB exam requirements,
- 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. Most students will have a Norwegian course as part of their diploma. Norwegian B HL is the minimum requirement for Norwegian universities and a requirement for students seeking



financial support from the Norwegian government for further studies. This rule may apply 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. As 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. 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 – a stipend is available for this - and free wi-fi is provided,
- all St Olav and Rogaland County annual student surveys are conducted in both Norwegian and English. In addition, St Olav communicates with students on Teams and via SMS in both Norwegian and English as relevant.
- students are required to agree to a list of safety procedures in science subjects. This list is available in both Norwegian and English,
- St Olav's website is in Norwegian with IB relevant information for IB accessible in English using the IB tab. The school library has a large stock of print and digital media, most of which are in English.

This policy is reviewed and updated as relevant by the IB Coordinator and relevant members of the IB Advisory Team and the Senior Management Team.