

Language Policy

The IB Diploma Programme at St. Olav videregående skole

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 self-taught candidates and as far as possible a language specialist helps in reading essays and advising on language issues,
- offers as taught language A Norwegian and English. Both Literature plus Language & Literature courses are offered. Students can choose either HL or SL in both courses,
- holds classes in Language B English, Norwegian, Spanish, French and German. For the latter three languages IB students study in a class with students from the Norwegian sector of the school studying these languages through to the final year. IB students will be given an additional specific tutorial lesson once a week in the final year to prepare them for the IB examination,
- promotes the learning of Norwegian, the language of the country. The majority of students will have Norwegian as part of their diploma. This is a requirement for Norwegian universities and also a requirement if students are seeking financial support from the Norwegian state for further studies. This rule applies regardless of whether a student will study in Norway or not. Those not taking Norwegian as part of their diploma are offered the chance to join the Norwegian B class should there be available places,

- gives special teaching in the first term of the Norwegian B course for those students new to the study of the Norwegian language to bring them up to a standard whereby they can join the regular class. The basic requirement for starting study of Norwegian B is level A2 on the CEFR guidelines for language proficiency. This is because the IB does not offer Norwegian ab initio. 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 starting study of 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 to be found in a variety of languages. The school also provides free access to online encyclopaedias. Students are required by the school to have a personal laptop for use in school.
- has a large stock of DVDs most of which are in English.