SKH Bishop Mok Sau Tseng Secondary School
School Language Policy

Guiding Principle of our school language policy

Our language policy is to enable students to learn effectively, to be biliterate in English and Chinese, and trilingual in English, Cantonese and Putonghua, and to become confident communicators in the languages of the school community, the local community and the global community.

Medium of Instruction (MOI) arrangements

1. Curriculum

- English is the teaching medium in most subjects. This applies to junior and senior classes.

Subjects using English as the medium of instruction:

S1 – S3	English Language, Mathematics, History, Geography, Computer Literacy, Music, Home Economics, S1-S2 Science, S3 Science (Physics), S3 Science (Chemistry), S3 Science (Biology), S3 Business Fundamentals
S4 – S6	English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, Economics, "Business, Accounting and Financial Studies", Information and Communication Technology, Music

Subjects using Chinese as the medium of instruction:

S1 – S3	Chinese Language, Chinese History, Putonghua, "Citizenship, Economics and Society", Religious Education, Physical Education, Visual Arts
S4 – S6	Chinese Language, Citizenship and Social Development, Chinese History, Chinese Literature, Visual Arts, Religious Education, Physical Education

- Small-group teaching in English Language will be arranged from S1 to S5, and Chinese Language will be arranged in S3, to cater for students with different language abilities.
- Putonghua lessons are introduced at junior secondary levels to ensure that our students achieve basic proficiency in Putonghua.
- Morning Reading Programme are held to promote reading habits.
- Cross-curricular activities are an integral part of the school's curriculum. Thus, various activities such as speech festivals, debate competitions, essay-writing competitions, drama, and morning broadcast (including the spoken form of Putonghua and English) are held to develop and improve students' language skills.

2. Measures to enhance EMI learning and teaching

2.1 An English-rich school environment

- The English Department is to help promote an English-rich school environment and host English broadcasts. It is also responsible for monitoring the use of English in different extra-curricular activities and school events.
- The English Department is also responsible for providing language support to the EMI subjects through the teaching of classroom language.
- The English Enhancement Day is an annual school function which aims at enhancing students' English proficiency through different activities.

- Some special assemblies, such as Prefects and SU Executive Members Inauguration, Term Beginning and End-of-term Service, are conducted in English.
- Committees and ECA groups are encouraged to organise various English activities to create a language-rich environment.
- Announcements in assemblies or through the PA system are mostly conducted in English.
- Posters, notices, and activity leaflets are mainly written in English.
- Teachers are encouraged to talk with students in English outside class time.
- In order to provide a more extensive English environment and enhance the students' exposure to the language, the progressive provision of more EMI subjects is always one of the concerns of the school.

2.2 Resources

- Reading to learn is developed among various subjects to arouse student' interest in reading across the curriculum and to enhance language proficiency.
- The school library, which includes a variety of Chinese and English books, audio-visual records, newspapers, and magazines, is the resource centre for extending students' language learning during and after class.

3. Teachers' Capability to Teach Through English

- All teachers teaching EMI subjects satisfy the "teacher capability" criterion set by the Education Bureau.
- They are encouraged to attend refresher courses to better equip themselves for the use of English in teaching.

4. Language Choice in HKDSE – School-based Regulations

In principle, students are not encouraged to choose the language version of a DSE subject that is different from the medium of instruction adopted by the school. If a student intends to take the English version of Citizenship and Social Development and Visual Arts in the DSE examination, they must follow the principles and procedures listed below:

- The choice is beneficial to the student's learning and further studies.
- The application must be made by parents in writing, with a detailed explanation.
- Under general circumstances, the student can only make the application before September of their S6 school year.
- On receiving the application, the Academic Master will consult the teachers concerned. The issue will also be discussed at an Academic Committee meeting before a decision is made.
- If the application is approved, the student can answer internal examination/test papers in English, but the examination/test papers will not be translated into English. Besides this, subject teachers have no obligation to provide the student with notes and learning materials in English.