



漢鼎書院 HAN ACADEMY

Responsibility for Policy
Implementation:
政策負責方:

Principal (Secondary)
中學校長

Relevant to:
政策關聯方:

All Han Academy staff (Secondary),
students and parents
所有漢鼎書院教職員(中學)、學生、
家長

Approved by:
政策批准方:

Principal (Head of School)
校長

Effective from:
政策生效日期:

01 August 2022
2022年8月01日

Next Review Date:
下次檢討日期:

31 July 2023
2023年07月31日

LANGUAGE POLICY

This policy aims at creating a harmonious learning and teaching environment at Han Academy (hereinafter, the School) as a foundational condition for the development and implementation of learning the curricula, meeting students' learning needs and strengthening their character and multicultural understanding.

1. Policy philosophy

- 1.1 Following the core principle that language is the key to all learning, all teachers of the School are language teachers and are expected to teach and communicate with students in the language of instruction of respective subjects. The use of Chinese language in a class, where English is the official language of instruction, is subject to approval by the respective subject/department head, in consultation with the Principal of Secondary.
- 1.2 Language learning at the School refers not only to learning of a specific language, but it also includes all activities around the language learning process, including those activities that promote the use of languages in the academic programme of the School, including in extra-curricular activities (ECAs). Through language, the school community acquires an ability to think and to learn, to develop social skills and values, and to acquire knowledge.
- 1.3 Language learning is an opportunity provided by the School to all its students, with consideration of inclusive education needs, if any. The School works to further develop its learning environment and conditions in order to enable all its students with various cultural-linguistic backgrounds to respect and learn their mother tongue and other language(s).

2. Language learning

- 2.1 The School accommodates different learning styles (kinetic, auditory, and visual) with differentiated instruction according to the individual needs of students, aimed to shape students' complete learner profile.
- 2.2 All students at the School are to be provided with an opportunity to learn at least two languages (English and Chinese Mandarin).

- 2.3 Students vary in their ability to learn a language; some will achieve functional proficiency in the target language while others will become truly bilingual or multilingual. The acquisition of language must be seen as a continuum, along which each individual student progresses at his or her own pace to reach fluency and accuracy.
- 2.4 The languages of instruction at the School are Chinese (Mandarin) and English, with exception of subjects taught in a third language (e.g., IBDP Group 2 language ab initio).
- 2.5 Taking into consideration the cultural focus of the School, Chinese language is offered on a regularly taught basis to all students at the School, including students, whose mother tongue is not Chinese.
- 2.6 The School encourages and supports students to learn their mother tongue. In cases where it is not Chinese or English, various events can be organised to support learning and promote a particular language and culture at the School.
- 2.7 Chinese and English, as the main languages of the School, shall be used in the whole teaching process and communication with students, with exception of communication in the third language taught at the School.
- 2.8 English has been selected as the language of instruction of the Cambridge and IBDP programmes at the School, except for Chinese language, Chinese History, Chinese Drama, Chinese Debate (and any other subject, as approved by the School).
- 2.9 The use of English as the language of instruction and communication is a criterion applied when observing teachers' performance. The extent to which a language other than English can be used in teaching and communication with students (in the case of English-medium subjects) is determined by the respective department/subject head, as approved by the Principal of Secondary.

3. Language learning support

- 3.1 All teachers of the School shall possess language skills (Chinese and/or English) suitable to teach respective academic subjects.
- 3.2 All administration (office) staff members shall possess language skills (Chinese Mandarin and/or Cantonese, and/or English) so that no student

can be in a disadvantageous position in his/her verbal communication with the School.

- 3.3 Official communication between the School and students, their parents and/or guardians is conducted in Chinese (Mandarin) and English. In case there is a translation-caused misinterpretation, the English version prevails.
- 3.4 The School encourages teachers to develop their language skills, including further improvement of teachers' subject-medium language skills. The expertise of language teachers, led by the director/head of language curricula, as a valuable resource, can be applied to provide necessary support in the process.
- 3.5 The School's language teachers, led by the directors of language curricula, are to provide the School, including in its assessment process, with technical support related to the respective language profile, including assistance in developing subject formative and summative assessment components.

4. Language admission standards and evaluation of language teaching

- 4.1 All applicants, who have applied for admission to the School, in addition to other assessment components, are required to have their Chinese and English language skills assessed in reading, writing, and speaking.
- 4.2 The School conducts assessment of language courses, and performance of students in all the languages taught at the School is subject to formal assessment. Review of the Chinese and English curricula and assessment strategies, including examinations, is discussed and undertaken within the Chinese and English departments, respectively.
- 4.3 Assessment of incoming students is to demonstrate near year-level literacy skills in the languages of instructions (English or Chinese, or both), as confirmed by the respective language department/subject group head.

5. Review of the Policy

- 5.1 The Policy shall be reviewed at least once per academic year, with the involvement of the School's leadership and subject (including language) teachers and with consideration of the input from students, their parents/guardians, and the broader school community.

5.2 The overall coordination of the review exercise is conducted by the Principal (Secondary), and the reviewed policy enters into force after being approved by the Head of School.