



VIS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LANGUAGE POLICY

Introduction

Although Vittoria International School operates in Italy, classes are taught in English. Most of our students are Italians and some are foreigners living in Italy. Therefore, most students mother tongue is Italian. VIS is characterized by its unique combination of an international program enriched by a strong Italian language and cultural base which provide a final diploma recognized in Italy and abroad. Many of our teachers have worked and studied both in the Italian system and in other international institutions. Some of our teachers are mother tongue English, or their first language is the one they teach, such as French and Spanish.

Language philosophy

VIS's pedagogical team firmly believes that to learn a language you must use it. We encourage teachers, students and staff to use English as their language of communication in all circumstances.

Students are surrounded by their native language when they are out of school, when they are at VIS they are surrounded by English.

VIS has a long history of excellence in foreign languages and we feel that the knowledge of at least three languages is a fundamental tool for the development of internationally open-minded students.

We encourage students study a third language.

On the Cambridge ICE program, students are offered either English as a Second Language or English as a First Language (available for foreign students if a minimum number is reached). Students can also choose either one or two foreign languages, French and/or Spanish.

On the IBDP, VIS has a linguistic track where students take a total of three languages, at either Standard Level (SL) or Higher Level (HL). One first language (A1) and two acquired languages (B) usually all at HL. The A1 will be Italian or English; English, when language B must be at HL, Italian either *ab initio*, SL or HL, and Spanish SL/HL or French SL/HL.

Language Policy

The school's working language is English; therefore a minimum level of the language is required for enrollment.

The school though wishes to give students who are not fluent in the language the opportunity to join the program if they meet minimum requirements and demonstrate strong motivation in learning. For this reason the minimum requirement for enrollment are as follows:

- on Cambridge ICE: a high A2 level of the European framework/KET with Merit/ or passing mark on the school's placement test.
- on the IBDP: a high B1 level of the European framework/PET with Merit/IGCSE English Second Language grade C or equivalent / or passing mark on the school's placement test.

Students meeting only the minimum entry requirements for English are obliged to follow additional English classes aimed at reaching a full B1 level / PET by the end ICE Year 1 and a full B2 level / FCE by the end of IBDP Year 1.

Students who meet entry requirements are nonetheless offered the opportunity to further improve their level by taking the subsequent Cambridge ESOL language certifications, FCE, CAE and CPE.

The study of the other foreign languages is encouraged with the additional objective and opportunity of achieving officially recognized language certifications: DELE A2, B1 and B2 for Spanish and DELF A2, B1 and B2 for French. Preparation takes place both during class time and as additional hours for specific exam preparation. Teachers are required to have an appropriate level of English, intended as a full B2 or upper intermediate level. The school offers professional language training for teachers who wish or need to improve or consolidate their level.

The school encourages non-English mother tongue teachers to teach subjects other than their own language as this is seen as a way to promote cultural exchanges which are enriching and beneficial for the students.