

## ALEV Language Policy

*"The limits of my language mean the limits of my World." Ludwig Wittgenstein*

### Language Philosophy:

ALEV Schools aim to provide their students with an international education throughout their whole educational life in a learning environment where they can grow to become a "World Citizen" to support interculturalism and open-mindedness.

With these aims in mind ALEV Schools define a language policy that provides students with a learning area where they are trained to become independent - proficient users of German and English according to the levels mentioned in the European Common Framework for Languages, beside their mother tongue Turkish.

This language policy should be regarded as a "Guideline for Achieving Language Goals":

### Diversity:

The majority of our students are Turkish and have Turkish as their mother tongue. A minority of them are bilingual Turkish&German.

### Language Profile of ALEV Students:

About 5 % of the students body have German roots and bilingual Turkish&German. All ALEV students learn German as a foreign language starting from kindergarten. In grade 8 students complete their middle school education with B1 level according to the Common European Framework of languages, students in upper secondary undertake B2-C1 and even some C2 level exams.

English as a foreign language starts in grade 2. Students are offered KET /PET / FCE and IELTS in lower and upper secondary.

### Admission Policy Concerning Languages:

For admission to the IB DP Programme students are expected to reach the language level of B 1+ in German and English according to the Common European Framework at the end of grade 10 and have at least 70 points in Turkish Literature in their second term reports.

In order for our students to be successful in German B HL course, during their IB interviews written exams are applied in addition to oral interviews. This examination covers study of reading and summing up a simple text, being able to answer questions about the text correctly.

Students who apply for the Diploma Programme but don't fulfill the above mentioned conditions are taken into consideration and are discussed in the teachers commission at the beginning and end of the school year.

The attitude of the students and their commitment then grades and levels will be taken into account.

Students who have lower points than 70 or don't have a language level of B1+ will be entitled to become a Diploma Programme student if he/she and his/her parents accept conditions like,

- extra tutoring after school
- doing homework regularly
- taking part in teacher – parents meetings

### **Language of Instruction:**

The language of instruction in all classes is Turkish. For the preparation to the DP Programme, where subjects will be taught in English and German, students will be confronted with English and German classroom material during the years in Grade 9 and 10, i.e. before the DP years.

The school programme in these grades also focuses on international projects and teaching across different curricular disciplines.

### **Language A – Mother Tongue Programme:**

ALEV Schools offer Turkish or German as Language A. Students learn a foreign language more quickly and effectively if they maintain and develop their proficiency in the mother tongue as many skills acquired in the first language can be transferred to the second language. We believe that both languages are interdependent and nurture each other.

Students learn German language in each level of school. Additionally they take German literature in lower and upper secondary. Students whose mother tongue is German or those who are able to access the Language A Programme may choose German as Language A providing that they are proficient in all four skills, i.e. reading, writing, listening and speaking.

In the case the school will have to support students' best language, which is other than Turkish or German, the school will support those students by medium of instruction and mother tongue too.

The language A-B teachers will work with those students on one-to one basis during the school time depending on the program they will determine according to students' needs and teachers will support those students by extra tutoring after school, assigning homework and evaluating them.

### **Language B**

In addition to their mother tongue, students at ALEV learn two foreign languages during their education. They are offered German and English. Students don't learn but nearly acquire the German as the programme starts in Kindergarten. In lower and upper secondary students develop their language and literacy competence as well as their intercultural competence. The language used in class is either German or English.

The content of the Language B program caters for the requirements of TOEFL exam. Therefore, The universities which are looking for TOEFL certificates can admit the students who hold Language B certificate as an exemption for their foundation levels.

### **Language Teaching and Learning**

Students at ALEV are considered as individuals who have different learning styles. Teaching methods and techniques are chosen accordingly so that every student's needs are met.

Grammar is taught inductively--rules are generalized from the practice and experience with the target language.

The culture associated with the target language is also taught inductively. Culture is considered an important aspect of learning the language.

The classroom is devoted primarily to activities that foster acquisition of L2. Learning activities involving practice and drill are also assigned as homework.

As all classes are made up of mixed-ability classes, differentiated tasks are given to the students which lead them to learn the subjects in accordance with their learning styles.

Cooperative teaching and learning methods are applied especially in lower and upper secondary.

The language department at ALEV School is engaged to lead cross-curricular projects in school. While making research about World War II, they analyse documents written in Turkish, German or English. Students are aware of using their language as an instrument to get information from different resources which has a beneficial effect on their motivation towards studying languages.

All subject teachers are regarded as language teachers. They give importance and encourage students to use the instrument "language" properly and accurately in order to communicate and express their ideas.

### **International Language Exams**

In order to promote international-mindedness and teaching of English Language at High- Level the students are encouraged to take part in IELTS exam towards the end of their 11 th grade year program. Students are delivered IELTS courses on a regular basis after school study hours. In the office hours provided for IELTS studies, the students are given guidance on the requirements of IELTS exam components and prior to attending the actual IELTS exams, our students are given

mock IELTS exams by IDP Australia company in order to get feedback about their strength and weaknesses regarding their speaking-reading-writing and listening skills.

Since 2007-2008, DSD I and DSD II examinations have been held at the Private ALEV High School. These exams cover the B1 / A2 and C1 / B2 levels of the Common Application for Foreign Languages of the European Union. DSD (Deutsches Sprachdiplom); students learn German between 14-19 ages, participate exams annually and prove their knowledge of German. It is an examination system where they can apply to universities or university preparatory schools in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The German Ministry of Culture accepts the DSD exams as the only school exam that tests German as a foreign language.

DSD exams are held in more than 60 countries worldwide. The DSD II (C1 / B2) exam measures and certifies the language skills required for university education. Every year students from our school take this exam and achieve successful results. The exam consists of 4 parts at both levels: Written expression, reading comprehension, understanding what you hear, oral exam. All parts of the exam take place at our school. While the exam dates are announced from Germany to the whole world, the exam questions are prepared there and sent to the embassies and consulates the school is affiliated with on the exam date.

While the oral examination is conducted by teachers trained in Germany, the oral examination takes place when a teacher who has the status of a civil servant in Germany is the head of the examination board at Private ALEV High School. Our German teachers are required to attend the annual examination seminars.

The students' German exam preparation begins in the preparatory class. Here they acquire the basic knowledge, grammar, and vocabulary necessary to pass the German exams, do related studies, and in mid-April they take the A2 level German exam to measure and document their knowledge.

While the student takes the DSD I B1 / A2 exam in 9th grade and the ÖSD B2 exam in 10th grade, they are prepared for the DSD II C1 / B2 exam format by 12th grade. The courses are taught at all levels with textbooks according to the Common Application Text of the European Union and materials specific to ALEV.

### **Communicating the Language Policy**

The language policy is introduced to all stakeholders of the IB DP Programme through parents-teacher meetings, class presentations and staff meetings. ALEV School's Language Policy is communicated during the parents' and students'

meetings. The ALEV School's Language Policy is shared with school community through ALEV SharePoint, Microsoft Teams and it is also published on school's official website. All stakeholders can get access to the policy via ALEV Sharepoint, Microsoft Teams folders and school's official webpage.

### **Policy Revision**

The policy is periodically reviewed by PLT, Head of departments, language departments teachers. HoDs work on the document before the revision, collect other teachers' thoughts and comments regarding the policy. The PLT, head of departments and language departments teachers collaboratively work on "ALEV School's Language Policy" every June and revise it when necessary, every August. All attendees share thoughts/comments regarding the school language policy during the collaborative meeting.

### **References:**

- Guidelines for developing a school language policy
- CEFR
- Towards a continuum of international education – "Learning in a language other than a mother tongue in IB programmes" and "Developing a school language policy"
- The Diploma Programme: From principles into practice- "Language options and language support"
- Learning in a language other than mother tongue in IBprogrammes
- Language and Learning in IB programmes.

**Language Policy Team (this team was announced by the pedagogical leadership team among volunteering teachers and has established the policies by getting feedback from the below mentioned references):**

PLT (Principal, Vice Principals, IB Coordinator, Counselor), HoDs, Turkish – German – English Language Departments

**Last updated:** August 2020

**Approved:** September 2020