



Language Policy

Montana International School Uganda (MISU) Language Policy

Policy Statement:

Montana International School Uganda (MISU) is a British-style, international school committed to providing the highest quality Cambridge International Education for students from Year 7 to Year 13. Our diverse student body, representing various nationalities and linguistic backgrounds, enriches our learning environment. This Language Policy outlines MISU's commitment to developing strong English language proficiency as the primary language of instruction and communication, while simultaneously valuing and supporting the maintenance and development of students' mother tongues, and fostering an appreciation for linguistic and cultural diversity. We believe that effective language development is fundamental to enabling every individual to achieve their full potential, building a strong self-concept, and cultivating the resilience needed for global communication.

Guiding Principles:

- **English as the Medium of Learning:** English is the primary language of instruction, learning, and assessment across all subjects (excluding specific language acquisition courses).
- **Inclusive Language Environment:** We are committed to supporting all learners, including those for whom English is an additional language (EAL), to access the curriculum and thrive academically and socially.
- **Valuing Mother Tongues:** We recognize and celebrate the importance of students' mother tongues as integral to their identity, cognitive development, and cultural heritage.
- **Promoting Plurilingualism:** We encourage students to maintain and develop their first languages alongside achieving high proficiency in English, fostering a global mindset.
- **Effective Communication:** Clear, respectful, and appropriate language use is paramount in all school interactions among students, staff, and parents.

1. Language of Instruction and Communication:

- **Primary Language:** English will be the sole language of instruction, learning, assessment, and all formal communication within MISU. This includes classroom teaching, textbooks, school announcements, official correspondence, reports, examinations, and school meetings (e.g., parent-teacher conferences, assemblies).
- **Encouragement:** Students and staff are encouraged to communicate in English during school hours and school-related activities to enhance language acquisition and create a common communicative environment.

2. English Language Development (ELD) / English as an Additional Language (EAL) Support:

MISU is committed to supporting students who arrive with varying levels of English proficiency to ensure their full access to the Cambridge curriculum.

- **Identification:** Upon admission, the English language proficiency of all non-native English-speaking students will be assessed through appropriate tools to identify their EAL needs.
- **In-Class Support (Differentiation):** All subject teachers are responsible for integrating EAL strategies into their daily teaching practice. This includes:
 - a) Using clear, concise language.
 - b) Providing visual aids and graphic organizers.
 - c) Differentiating tasks and materials.
 - d) Encouraging peer support and collaborative learning.
 - e) Providing opportunities for speaking, listening, reading, and writing across the curriculum.
- **Targeted Support:** For students requiring more intensive support, MISU will provide targeted EAL intervention, which may include:
 - a) Small group withdrawal sessions focusing on academic language and literacy skills.
 - b) Individualized support plans are developed in collaboration with EAL specialists (if available) and subject teachers.
 - c) Close monitoring of progress to facilitate seamless integration into the mainstream curriculum.
- **Assessment:** EAL students' progress in English language acquisition will be regularly monitored and reported, in addition to their subject-specific academic progress.
- **Resources:** The school library will endeavour to provide age-appropriate resources that support English language learning.