

Language policy

Language mission:

The Swedish curriculum on modern languages is in full accordance with the [IB Learner profile](#) and interacts well with IB goals:

“Language is the primary tool for thinking ([Inquirers](#)), communicating ([Communicators](#)) and learning. Knowledge of several languages can provide new perspectives on the world, increased opportunities for contact and a greater understanding of different ways of life ([Reflective](#), [Open-minded](#), [Principled](#)). Knowledge of several languages ([Knowledgeable](#)) also enhances an individual's ability to participate in different social and cultural contexts ([Caring](#)) and to take part in international study and working life (international mindedness, [Risk-taker](#)).”¹

Teaching languages should enable students to develop their multilingualism and confidence in their ability to use the language in different situations and for different purposes. Therefore, language learning is not only part of Modern languages **but every subject teacher is a language teacher.**

All-round communicative skills involve understanding spoken and written language, being able to express oneself and interact with others in speech and writing, and being able to adapt one's language to different situations, purposes and audiences. Communicative competence also includes linguistic confidence and the ability to use different strategies to facilitate communication when language skills are not sufficient.

Language learning should help students to develop skills in searching, evaluating, selecting and assimilating the content of spoken language and texts from different sources. They should also be given the opportunity to use different tools (both digital and reading/writing) for learning, understanding, creating and communicating. Teaching should stimulate students' interest in languages and cultures and convey the benefits of language skills. Ehrens värdska gymnasiet offers weekly language support on all levels. Language teachers will be available for support to students who are in need.

¹ Passage translated into English
Skolverket. “Moderna språk.”

<https://www.skolverket.se/undervisning/grundskolan/laroplan-och-kursplaner-for-grundskolan/laroplan-lgr22-for-grundskolan-samt-for-forskoleklassen-och-fritidshemmet?url=-996270488%2Fcompulsorycw%2Fjsp%2Fsubject.htm%3FsubjectCode%3DGRGRMSP01%26tos%3Dgr&sv.url=12.5dfee44715d35a5cdfa219f>. Accessed 19 January 2023.

Texts differ from subject to subject. Teachers help students with an active reading approach that develops the students' skills to both monitor their own understanding and improve it. This reciprocal teaching means that strategies are taught by a teacher to a group of students so that the students eventually take over more responsibility for the activities.

Mother tongue

All students study Swedish from the beginning of their school career. Those with a foreign language will learn Swedish as a second language instead while they still get the possibility to study their own language as section 7 A of the Swedish Education Act states: "A student who has a guardian with a mother tongue other than Swedish shall be offered mother tongue instruction in that language if

1. the language is the pupil's everyday language at home, and
2. the student has a basic knowledge of the language.

A student belonging to one of the national minorities shall be offered mother tongue instruction in the student's national minority language."²

English - 1st foreign language

As the English language surrounds us in everyday life and is used in areas as diverse as politics, education and economics and knowledge of English enhances an individual's ability to participate in different social and cultural contexts and to take part in international study and working life, English as the first foreign language is taught already from the first year of primary school.

Modern language - 2nd foreign language

- From the sixth (in some areas from the seventh) grade students choose their second foreign language which can be French, Spanish, German but even Mandarin.

² Passage translated into English
Skollag (2010:800). " Modersmålsundervisning."
https://www.riksdagen.se/sv/dokument-lagar/dokument/svensk-forfattningssamling/skollag-2010800_sfs-2010-800#K10.
Accessed 23 January 2023.

EGIC

The teaching language in this first year of the upper-secondary school is English. Students that do not have Swedish as their mother tongue study Swedish as a second language. Students who are beginners (in Swedish) will study Swedish for starters. Hence, all EGIC students study English and one Swedish course depending on their prior knowledge of the Swedish language. They also study a modern language (i.e. French, German, Spanish) on level 1 (for beginners) or level 3 (within the framework of students' choices in the compulsory school).

Second and third year

Offering bilingual education to students of various nationalities, the Ehrensärdska gymnasiet facilitates and appreciates students' engagement in foreign languages learning as a means of enhancing intercultural communication as well as a means of acquiring knowledge.

Swedish-speaking students study Swedish as a mother tongue.

“Students are expected to develop their proficiency, fluency and linguistic range, and in particular to acquire the vocabulary appropriate to the analysis of texts. They will also deepen their understanding of a wide variety of concepts explored through literary and non-literary texts in order to interpret, analyse, evaluate and then communicate this understanding in clear, organised and developed products.”³

In addition to their mother tongue, Swedish-speaking students study English as a second language, and if they wish also French as another second foreign language.

This Language course is “designed to provide students with the necessary skills and intercultural understanding to enable them to communicate successfully in an environment where the language studied is spoken. This process allows the learner to go beyond the confines of the classroom, expanding their awareness of the world and fostering respect for cultural diversity.”⁴

Non-Swedish students will be offered both languages the other way round: English as a mother tongue and Swedish as a second language or French.

³ International Baccalaureate. “Language A: language and literature guide, First assessment 2021, p.6.” May 2023.

⁴ International Baccalaureate. “Language B guide, First assessment 2020, p.6.” August 2021.

As students may come from all parts of the world, they are exposed to a number of accents and ways of conveying knowledge since English native speakers come from all over the world. In this manner the importance of language learning and international mindedness are promoted at the school.

Revision of Policy

At the beginning of each school year all staff discuss revisions as needed.

Schoolyear 2023/2024