



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL) POLICY

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MFL stands for Modern Foreign Languages, a subject taught in schools that involves the study of a language other than the student's native language. The aim and goal of MFL education are to:

- Promote linguistic competence: The students are taught to understand, speak, read, and write in a foreign language.
- Enhance cultural awareness: MFL education helps students to understand and appreciate the culture and traditions of the country where the foreign language is spoken.
- Foster intercultural communication: MFL education enables students to communicate with people from different countries and cultures, promoting mutual understanding and respect.
- Improve employability: Knowledge of a foreign language is an essential skill that is valued by many employers and can increase employability.
- Develop cognitive skills: Learning a foreign language can enhance cognitive skills such as memory, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

Overall, the main goal of MFL education is to prepare students for a globalized world and equip them with the linguistic and intercultural skills necessary to participate in it effectively.

Introduction:

This policy outlines the school's commitment to providing all students with high-quality teaching and learning in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). It outlines the school's philosophy and objectives for teaching MFL and providing language-rich learning opportunities.

Philosophy:

At the International School of Bucharest, studying MFL should be an enriching and enjoyable experience for all students. It enables them to develop their linguistic and cultural awareness and prepares them for life in a global society. The school values the benefits of learning a foreign language, including increased employability, personal and intellectual development, and promoting cultural understanding.

Objectives:

ISB objectives for the teaching of MFL are:

- To enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the language and culture of the countries in which it is spoken.
- To provide students with opportunities to practice their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and to develop their communication skills in a foreign language.
- To promote cultural awareness and understanding and to develop a sense of global responsibility.
- To encourage students to develop an interest in and enjoy language learning and to provide opportunities to continue their language studies beyond the compulsory years.

Provision:

MFL is compulsory for all students from year 7 to year 13. The school offers Spanish, French, and Romanian as a second language and Turkish and Romanian as a first language (Romanian language is 2 hours per week in KS3). The school may offer other languages, subject to demand and staffing.

Teaching and Learning:

MFL lessons at the International School of Bucharest are engaging, interactive, and student-centered. Teachers use various teaching methods to promote student engagement and enjoyment, including speaking and listening activities, role plays, and games.

Assessment:

Assessment in MFL is ongoing, summative, and formative. Teachers regularly assess students' progress in their language learning through observation, questioning, and written assignments.

Language-Rich Learning Environment:

The school provides a language-rich learning environment by promoting the target language and culture in the classroom, displaying language learning resources and posters, and encouraging students to participate in language exchanges and cultural events.

Conclusion:

This policy outlines the school's commitment to providing high-quality teaching and learning in MFL. The school values the benefits of learning a foreign language and aims to provide students with a positive and enriching language learning experience.

Studying Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) is essential for pupils to develop language skills

and broaden their understanding of other cultures. This policy aims to provide clear guidance on the MFL subject selection process for pupils in our school.

Eligibility:

All pupils in Key Stage 3 (KS3) and 4 (KS4) must study an MFL.

Subject Options:

The MFL subject options for pupils in KS3 are French, Spanish, Romanian and Turkish. In KS4, pupils can continue with French or Spanish as a second language and Turkish as a First language.

Subject Selection Process:

Pupils will have the opportunity to attend a subject information evening where they will be provided with detailed information on the MFL subjects available and the curriculum content. They will also be able to meet with subject teachers and ask questions.

Pupils will then be required to select their preferred MFL subject(s). The schools will manage the subject selection process.

Subject Allocation:

The final allocation of subjects will be based on the following criteria:

1. replacement test
2. Pupil preferences
3. Staffing and resource availability
4. Pupil ability and potential
5. The school aims to provide a balanced and diverse curriculum.

Appeals:

In a disagreement with the subject allocation, pupils and parents may appeal to the school. The school will manage the appeal process.

Conclusion:

This MFL subject selection policy provides clear guidance on the subject selection process for pupils in our school. The policy ensures pupils have a balanced and diverse curriculum that meets their needs and aspirations.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Subject Change

Students can change their MFL subject if they meet the following criteria.

1. The student is in Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) and has yet to start their GCSE course or take the level test.
2. Students must complete their GCSE course in Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11).
3. The student has a valid reason for wanting to change their subject, such as a change in personal circumstances or a more vital interest in a different language.

Procedure:

1. The students should speak to their MFL teacher to discuss their reasons for wanting to change their subject. The parents should send an official email to the HOD.
2. The MFL teacher will discuss the request with the Head of MFL and the relevant subject teacher.
3. If the request is approved, the MFL teacher will inform the student and arrange the change. HOD talks to the subject teachers, and if all agree, then HOD announces the parents and students officially.
4. If the request is not approved, the MFL teacher will inform the student and provide a written explanation of the reasons for the decision.
5. The student may appeal the decision by writing to the Head of School within 10 school days of receiving the decision.

Level Tests

1. Students will have a level test at the beginning and end of the school year (the period will be decided within the MFL department). According to the test results, students may move to the classroom.
2. All the students and the teachers will use the same textbooks.
3. The content of the level tests must be decided within the department (e.g. one writing task, two reading texts, and general topic questions).

Considerations:

- The availability of teachers and resources in the desired language.
- The student's current language proficiency and potential for success in the new language.
- The impact on the student's overall curriculum and the school's ability to offer a balanced curriculum.

Conclusion:

The MFL Department at ISB is committed to supporting students in their language learning journey. This policy provides a clear and transparent process for students who wish to change their MFL subject. The department will consider each request carefully and decide based on the student's and the school's best interests.

Subject Change During Semester

The following policy outlines the procedure for changing MFL subjects during the semester. Students are eligible to change MFL subjects if they meet the following criteria:

1. The student has not completed more than one-third of the total coursework for the current MFL subject.
2. The student has not received a grade assessment grade lower than a “4” for the current MFL subject.
3. The student has a solid academic reason for wanting to change the subject, such as a change in career goals or personal circumstances.

Procedure

- Students who wish to change their MFL subject must complete a “Subject Change Form and submit it to the MFL department.
- The form must include a written statement explaining the reason for the subject change.
- The MFL department will review the form and provide a decision within 5 business days.
- If the subject change is approved, the student will be given a new class schedule and responsible for completing any missed assignments or exams in the original MFL subject.

Impact on Grades

The grade in the original MFL subject will remain on the student's transcript.

Limitations

- Students may only change their MFL subject once per key stage.
- Subject changes are not guaranteed and are subject to availability.

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Approved by SLT