



Älmhults kommun

The International School

Language at the International School of Älmhult

At the International School of Älmhult, we are encouraging our students to become international individuals. This means that open-mindedness is our educational platform. We are working in an internationally based curriculum and an inter-cultural environment.

The language of instruction is English and we recognise the need for clear communication within and beyond the school. The school is mindful of the need to support its international pupils, parents, stakeholders and staff alike. The school is aware that the degree of proficiency for students, parents and staff in English can vary.

Our language philosophy

The school acknowledges the current research showing that children can become proficient in a language orally within 2 year and that academic language takes 5 years to develop enough to access the curriculum. We work with all students to plan our curriculum and support to ensure that all learners progress. All teachers, regardless of subject, are also language teachers, and develop students' language skills.

We value and put great importance in the learner's mother tongue. Having a well-developed first language enhances and reinforces learning a new language and enables us to learn a second language more successfully.

It is evident that our mother tongue is a great part of our identity. To make sure every individual feels they are a part of our community, regardless of nationality, we try to emphasize an international and multi-lingual environment. An inter-cultural awareness allows the students to see a strong link between home and school.

Studying at least two languages is a goal for our students to support understanding of their own cultures and those of others (Language Acquisition Guide p.3). Children from the age of seven are required to study an additional language in our school (Standard A7.a). A student might be exempt from this requirement in case of lack of English skills. The student will instead receive language support until able to access the curriculum independently.

Although most of our pupils are in Sweden for a limited period of time, the school wishes to help provide the opportunity for all pupils to develop an interest in using the language of the host country.

Language Procedures

English

English is the language of instruction of the school. Students with limited English language proficiency, are provided language support from our Support for Learning Team. The aim is to give the students the skills and understanding necessary to follow the regular classes and the routines of the school day. English lessons have an obvious role to play in teaching and reinforcing language skills needed in other mainstream subjects.

In PYP students will learn language through reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and presenting.

Following IB standards and practices, MYP the students will study both a Language and Literature and a Language Acquisition subject, at least one each. If a student is yet unable to enrol in at least one Language and Literature subject, the student will have a Support Management Plan that outlines how and when he or she will be able enrol in Language and Literature. Likewise, if a student has a prioritized need for support in English language development (EAL), he or she will be taken out of Language Acquisition, and the student will have a Support Management Plan outlining a clear path to enrol in Language Acquisition.

Swedish

In PYP, Swedish lessons are differentiated to the needs of individual students.

In MYP the students will study either Language and Literature or Language Acquisition depending upon which phase of language development they are in.

Other languages

Students whose mother-tongue is not English or Swedish are encouraged to take mother tongue lessons during their education at the International School of Älmhult. These lessons are normally held after school. From the age of seven, the community of Älmhult provides mother-tongue lessons if there is a group of at least five students in the community requesting teaching.

From School Year 2016-2017, students in MYP 3 and up will choose French or Spanish to study as Language Acquisition providing that they have proficient English skills. This language study continues throughout the MYP programme.