



PASSION HOME BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

LANGUAGE POLICY



PHBIS

School Policy - August 2023 update - By Human Resource Management Department



At **Passion British International School (PHBIS)**, we view language as more than simply a communication tool. We see language as critical for global citizenship as it enables students to understand, communicate and empathize with people from different cultures, thus making them truly multicultural individuals who fit into a world that is increasingly more fluid and interconnected.

Research also shows that knowing two or more languages has tangible cognitive benefits. As one learns to switch between languages, one triggers, and potentially strengthens, the part of the brain that manages executive function (problem-solving, multitasking, and focusing attention).

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The primary language of instruction at **Passion British International School (PHBIS)** is the English Language. For the avoidance of doubt, this means;

- All lessons are taught in the English language
- Non English language speakers are taken through special English language lessons for one year.
- All examinations and assessments in all subjects (except foreign language subjects) are conducted in English language
- All official communications including student transcripts and recommendation letters are made in the English language.

LANGUAGE LEARNING AT PHBIS

All students learn English language from grade 1 through to grade 12.

In addition to the English language, all students from grade 1 to grade 8 learn three foreign languages; French, Spanish and Chinese at the beginners and intermediate level based on level of proficiency.

From grades 9 to grade 11, students choose one foreign language (Chinese, French or Spanish) at any level (beginners, intermediate or advanced levels).

Students who are learning English language for the first time are taught English in line with the **Passion British International School (PHBIS)** policy.

FRENCH AND SPANISH PROGRAMS

In these programs, we welcome students from beginners to native speakers to join at any time up to Grade 11. Students are grouped into beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, with about 6 students per group.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMS

In these programs, two languages (English and another language, French, Spanish or Chinese) are used for instruction in a variety of topics, including math, science, or social studies with the overall goal of promoting bilingualism between the two different sets of language-speakers. Language immersion is available only to students who learn a language up to the intermediate and advance levels of proficiency.

GHANAIAI LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Starting in August 2010, **Passion British International School (PHBIS)** will offer three Ghanaian language options in our middle and high school language curriculum. The local language options are Twi, Ewe and Ga.

In these programs, we welcome students from beginners to native speakers to join at any time up to Grade 11. Our teachers are native speakers with teaching experience. Students choose one option from the three local languages are grouped into beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, with about 6 students per group.

SUPPORT FOR MOTHER TONGUE

At **PHBIS**, we are proud of the cultural and language diversity of our community and and encourage everyone to discover, learn, speak and cherish their mother language.

Each year, the third week of February is devoted for celebration of mother tongue in the school where leaners are not only encouraged speak and teach their mother tongue but also to exhibit their culture to the school community.

LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Primary school

No language experience requirement is needed for admission to primary school.

Middle school

Students entering Middle School have varied language backgrounds. Some are already multilingual, while others come without any second language experience.

At **Passion British International School (PHBIS)**, we offer many language options to allow students to develop their language ability to their highest potential. Depending on a student's language level, they have a range of choices, from beginners, intermediate and advanced level language learning.

High school

No prior language experience is needed before students join grade 9&10 or the IB Diploma Program. Language options exist for students of all experience levels, from beginners to bilingual or multilingual students. This is because the IB offers an option where the student does a second language either as ab intio for beginners (that is, students who have not had any exposure to the language), standard level for students with prior experience or high level for students already fluent in the second language.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE VISITS

At **Passion British International School (PHBIS)**, we believe that being surrounded by a target language and culture is an invaluable experience for all language learners. Every year we organize exchange visits for those learning Chinese, French and Spanish. All of these linguistic-cultural programs are organized by the Language Department at **Passion British International School (PHBIS)** and most of them are based on our strong international collaborations.

