

KOHANA'S LANGUAGE POLICY

1. Language values:

Languages are essential tools for both teaching and learning. They are also expressions of culture and identity. In an international school, delivering an international curriculum to children of many languages, it is important to clarify the viewpoint and assumptions that lie behind the uses of languages within the school.

Kohana International School believes that:

- All students need to acquire and maintain a strong foundation in what they consider to be their first language.
- The ability to use more than one language has practical, educational and social benefits.
- In the modern world, command of English is the primary key to accessing information and communicating internationally.
- All students in an international school should learn the language of the host country i.e. Japanese.
- The school also follows 3rd language for graders and provides the option of French, Hindi or Tamil for children to choose.
- Students are learning through language and about language in every class of every day.

Therefore:

- All students at Kohana are encouraged and assisted to maintain their first language (English).
- Kindergarten students at Kohana will study at least two languages and graders will study atleast 3 languages.
- The language of instruction at Kohana is English.
- Students entering Kohana with limited English will receive appropriate additional support.
- All students at Kohana will have the opportunity to study the language of the host country – Japanese.
- The teaching of language is the responsibility of all teachers.

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2. School Language Profile:

THE SCHOOL:

- The language of instruction throughout the school is English.
- English is also the language used in school publications, on its website, in communication between school and parents, and between members of staff.
- All expatriate teachers are native speakers of English or teachers who have good command over English language.
- Japanese and other language teachers must also be able to function in English.

PARENTS:

- Not all parents can speak or understand English. In some families, neither parent can speak English.
- Other parents have learned English.
- Japanese and Hindi are the two languages most commonly spoken by parents.
- Other languages spoken by parents have in recent years included Korean, Nepali, Urdu, Malaysian, Chinese, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada and Tamil but seldom by more than one or two families.

STUDENTS:

- No students have native English-speaking parents.
- Most of our students therefore hear languages other than English being spoken at home.
- English is the language most often used by students when communicating to another student of a different nationality although sometimes Japanese is used.

3. School Practices:

- All students receive instruction in English in every subject except Japanese.
- All students are taught Japanese in almost every Grade (UKg onward).
- All language teachers are suitably qualified and experienced.
- The school employs 2 full-time Native English teachers (One in Pre-school and another in Graders).
- The school employs a full time Japanese teacher (Graders) and 3 Hoikushis, who also teach Japanese in Pre-school.

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- The school also employs a manager who is a Native English speaker and works closely with the English teachers.
- Students' use of English is encouraged at all times within school.
- All new students are tested to assess their English competence.
- The Library includes books in both English and Japanese.
- Student work is frequently displayed in classes and in corridors.
- Plays and other events are staged which give students the opportunity to perform before an audience in English.
- When necessary, translation services are provided for parents who cannot speak English.
- The welcome and introduction on the school website exists in two languages (English plus Japanese).
- School's ERP system is completely in English.