

LANGUAGE POLICY

Björknäsgymnasiet is a candidate school* for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme and pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to improve the teaching and learning of a diverse and inclusive community of students by delivering challenging, high quality programmes of international education that share a powerful vision.**

*Only schools authorized by the International Baccalaureate can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme or the IB Career-related Certificate (IBCC). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit www.ibo.org

****Mission Statement from the IB** The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

School's Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a dynamic diverse learning environment where we celebrate multiculturalism and promote sustainability and peace to produce positive global citizens.

We aim to inspire our learners to become courageous and competent through our inquiry based and holistic education, where they will achieve both personal and academic success.

Björknäsgymnasiet is a positive and inspirational environment where staff and students grow as individuals and humans.

About Björknäsgymnasiet

The school is located in the centre of Boden and is fully funded by the municipality. The Boden community is changing as the green industry is developing in the area and through this we need to provide for a highly qualitative education in English. We have a tradition of welcoming immigrants to our municipality which adds many languages to the society (see Inclusion- and Admission Policy). There is a wide variety of educational programmes at our school that ranges from vocational to academical. The common language of instruction at the school is Swedish and the IBDP at Björknäsgymnasiet will use English as the language of instruction.

Language Philosophy

Language is the number one tool for learning, and it allows students to explore a variety of fields previously unknown, and therefore we see all our teachers as teachers of language. Intercultural communication is enhanced through languages. English is our language of instruction, but in the local community Swedish is used and we find it important for all students to learn Swedish too. In our IB community we will have students from a wide range of countries carrying with them a variety of mother tongues that will enrich our cultural understanding and international mindedness (see Inclusion- and Admission Policy). We encourage students to choose a second and/or a third language, in addition to their mother tongue and/or English. We offer Swedish, French, German and Spanish B as well as Swedish Ab Initio.

Language Development

The language of instruction is English except for Group 2 subjects in French, Spanish, Swedish and German. We pride ourselves in having professional teachers in German, French and Spanish and we have staff members from many countries. We believe that learning languages allows for cultural diversity and development of intercultural understanding (see Mission Statement). When it comes to the language of instruction, English, our goal is for our students to be able to interact comfortably and fluently. We also aim for all our students to learn Swedish which will allow an easier transition and integration into the local context as well as stimulating linguistic and cultural interest, all aligning with the IB learner profile.

All teachers are considered to be language teachers and assist in student development of language skills accompanying the learning in the classroom. Accommodations where necessary are provided to ensure understanding of the materials and scaffolding for students who are struggling with the language of instruction such as use of dictionaries or translation tools (see Inclusion Policy).

Language Support

Students who have challenges in their language development, such as dyslexia, will be provided with strategies and frameworks to assist them. These are to be organized with the assistance of specialist teachers, who, in combination with the classroom teachers will create an Individual Education Plan to be implemented which would consist of changes to timing for assessments, ICT tools to assist in reading and writing. All students get a laptop when enrolled which will be helpful should any special needs exist (see Inclusion Policy).

The School Library provides multilingual reading materials accessible to students and will provide additional support to students in their language development by assisting with purchasing of books related to student language needs.

All staff members have access to language training and language support from our staff that are native speakers of English.

Diploma Programme Languages

Group 1: Language A: Literature and language (English/Swedish)

Group 2: English B, French B, German B, Spanish B, Swedish B and Swedish Ab Initio

Policy review

The Language Policy will be reviewed by the Deputy Head of School and the Programme Coordinator annually in August for the first three years and thereafter every second year.

Contact Information

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<https://www.boden.se/utbildning/international-school/international-programme-upper-secondary.62d60acc>

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