



Marina International School

P.O. Box 717

BANJUL

The Gambia

FARIMANG SINGATEH ROAD

BAKAU NEW TOWN

LANGUAGE POLICY

Overview

Marina International School is committed to fostering a culturally inclusive and linguistically diverse learning environment. Guided by our mission to provide a holistic, student-centred education that enables students to reach their full potential and contribute to the progress of The Gambia and the world, and our vision to cultivate an internationally acclaimed and diverse community committed to academic excellence and character development in a safe and caring environment, we recognize the importance of language in achieving these goals.

As an English-medium school in an English-majority country, Marina International School acknowledges that many of our students come from multilingual backgrounds. This policy ensures that all students, regardless of their English proficiency, have equitable access to education and are supported in their language development. It aligns with the school's commitment to inclusion, diversity, and respect for all cultures, preparing students to be global citizens.

Policy Objectives

This Inclusive Language Policy aims to:

- Provide equitable learning opportunities for all students, including those for whom English is an additional language (EAL).
- Promote an inclusive school environment that values and respects multilingualism and cultural diversity.
- Support the development of English language proficiency while recognizing the importance of students' home languages.
- Equip teachers with strategies to facilitate language learning for all students.
- Strengthen communication between the school, parents, and the community to enhance language development and academic success.

Language of Instruction and Communication

- English is the primary language of instruction for all subjects except foreign language courses.
- English is the main medium for communication among staff, students, and parents in formal settings.
- The school recognizes and respects students' home languages, encouraging their appropriate use for peer support and cultural expression.
- Important school communications and key documents will be made accessible to parents with limited English proficiency through translations or language support when necessary.

Support for Non-Native English Speakers

- Upon admission, all students will undergo an English language proficiency assessment to determine their support needs.
- An English as an Additional Language (EAL) program will be available for students who require additional language assistance.
- Teachers will implement differentiated instructional strategies to support students at various levels of English proficiency.
- Professional development will be provided for teachers to enhance their ability to support English language learners (ELLs).
- Where feasible, bilingual teaching assistants or peer support systems will be introduced to help students transition to English-medium learning.

Encouraging Multilingualism and Cultural Respect

- The school will celebrate linguistic diversity through cultural events, language days, and international festivals.
- Students will be encouraged to maintain their home languages while developing proficiency in English, recognizing the cognitive and social benefits of bilingualism.
- Classroom discussions and activities will include multilingual perspectives to enrich learning experiences.
- The school will facilitate partnerships with parents to support language development at home and at school.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **School Leadership:** Ensure the implementation, monitoring, and continuous improvement of this policy.
- **Teachers:** Integrate inclusive teaching strategies to support EAL students and foster a linguistically inclusive classroom.
- **EAL Specialists:** Provide targeted interventions, assessments, and training for staff to support language development.

- **Parents:** Engage with the school to support their child's English learning while valuing their home language.
- **Students:** Respect and support linguistic diversity, actively participating in language learning initiatives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The school will regularly assess the effectiveness of language support programs through student progress evaluations and feedback from teachers and parents.
- English language proficiency assessments will be conducted periodically to ensure appropriate interventions and support.
- The policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it meets the evolving needs of the school community and aligns with best practices in international education.

Policy Review

- This policy will be reviewed every three years.

Conclusion

Marina International School's Language Policy reflects our commitment to fostering an environment where all students, regardless of linguistic background, can thrive academically and socially. By supporting English language learners while celebrating linguistic diversity, we uphold our mission of holistic, student-centred education and prepare students for success in a globalized world. This policy will be reviewed and updated annually to ensure its effectiveness and continued alignment with our educational goals.