

Language Policy

Vision

To redefine education by nurturing young minds through our GROWTH values, empowering them to thrive and contribute meaningfully to a just and sustainable future.

Mission

To unlock every learner's unique potential and foster a love for lifelong learning by creating a purpose-driven ecosystem built on our pillars of happiness.

Purpose and Scope

At Empyrean, we believe that language, culture, and learning are intricately intertwined. We are committed to ensuring a harmonious balance of language, culture, and learning. We strive to create a nurturing and inclusive community that embraces linguistic diversity, empowers academic excellence, and honors cultural heritage. Our comprehensive Language Policy serves as a cornerstone of our educational philosophy, guiding our practices to achieve our mission of developing individual potential, and instilling a love for lifelong learning.

1. Language Policy

Our Language Policy focuses on-

Multilingualism: Empyrean school caters to students from diverse linguistic backgrounds, making a language policy essential for promoting linguistic diversity and inclusivity.

Cultural sensitivity: A language policy acknowledges and respects the cultural heritage of students, fostering an inclusive environment.

Support for first-generation learners: Our language policy provides targeted support for students who are new to English or learning in a non-native language.

Consistency and clarity: A language policy establishes clear guidelines for language instruction, assessment, and usage, ensuring consistency across the school community.

2. Objectives and Aims

Objectives

- All students learn more than one language (English, Hindi and Marathi above the age of 6)
- Introduction of a Foreign language in Grade 6 (French)
- Develop a respect and appreciation for language and literature
- Use language effectively to communicate
- Develop communication skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and presenting) essential for a global citizen
- Use language as a medium for gaining understanding, thought, creativity, reflection, learning, self-expression and social interaction
- Develop cultural awareness and an international outlook through language
- Be aware of the technical influences and trends in language
- Be aware of the importance of languages
- Learn about language in a variety of ways
- Experience language in all forms and disciplines

Aims

- To ensure that a lifelong interest in reading is inculcated.
- To ensure that the language instructions are in line with the philosophy.
- To ensure a differentiated approach to language instruction and assessment accommodating the needs of the diverse learner community.
- To ensure that support is provided to first generation learners.
- To seek and ensure continuous improvement in language skills for all students.

3. Curriculum Implementation

As a school, we are committed to academic excellence and cultural diversity. Our student body comprises individuals from diverse linguistic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. We strive to strike a balance between nurturing regional language heritage and achieving excellence in English language proficiency.

To foster fluency in English and cultivate a love for reading, we have implemented a comprehensive approach in the Primary years, which includes specialized teaching methods and materials, such as an internationally benchmarked reading platform, to support English language instruction and reading skills development.

Hindi is offered as a subject from Pre-Primary to Grade 10, while Marathi (regional language), is taught from Grades 1 to 10, in accordance with the state government's mandate and our commitment to preserving local culture and language.

Empyrean School will implement the Cambridge Programme alongside the existing CBSE Curriculum, effective from the Academic Year 2025-26, to provide a comprehensive and diverse educational experience for its students.

In the Primary years, a blended curriculum is offered, integrating the best practices of the Cambridge Curriculum, to prepare students for the Lower Secondary years. Students in Grades 6 and 7 will have the option to choose between the Cambridge and CBSE curriculum, effective from Academic Year 2025-26. For the AY 2025-26, the Cambridge pathway will be offered up to Grade 7. In AY 2026-27, it will extend to Grade 8, with an additional grade being added each subsequent year.

4. Language of Instruction

English is the language of Instruction across the school. We believe that language reflects an individual's values, history, and way of thinking and thus we also incorporate Hindi and Marathi as languages of communication in the early years, acknowledging the diverse linguistic backgrounds and needs of our student body.

4.1 Languages at Empyrean

	Grades			
Languages Offered	Early Years (Pre-Primary)	Primary (Grades 1-5)	Lower Secondary (Grades 6-8)	Upper Secondary (Grades 9 & 10)
English				
Hindi				
Marathi				
French				

Scale:

Compulsory	Optional	Not Offered
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English as the First language is taught from Pre-Primary to Grade 12 and is a compulsory subject. Regional Language (Marathi) is introduced in Grade 1, promoting cultural knowledge and local connectivity.

Our comprehensive Language Programme-

- English is the First Language is compulsory from Pre-Primary to Grade 12
- Regional Language (Marathi) is introduced in Grade 1 to foster cultural knowledge and local connectivity
- Hindi, a widely used language of communication, is introduced in the early years
- French, a foreign language, is introduced in Grade 6 to provide exposure to diverse cultures and broaden linguistic horizons

Grade 6 onwards, students have the opportunity to choose between Hindi and French as their Second Language. This selection process takes place within the first two weeks of the academic session, with students making informed decisions along with their parents. Teachers share their insights before finalizing the choice to help students make informed decisions; this helps students-

- Develop a strong foundation in their preferred language
- Appreciate the richness of cultural diversity
- Become proficient communicators, equipped to thrive in an increasingly globalized world.

In accordance with the State government mandate, Marathi is compulsory for all students until Grade 10; students opting for French or Hindi as their second language also study Marathi as their third language, ensuring a well-rounded language education.

4.2 Language of Communication

At Empyrean, we promote an English-only policy within the school premises to foster proficiency in the language. All our communication (oral / written) is in English, however, we also acknowledge the significance of linguistic diversity and its impact on academic success. To cater to the needs of first-generation learners, we adopt a flexible bilingual approach, supplementing English with Marathi and Hindi as necessary. This inclusive strategy creates an inclusive learning environment, enabling effective communication and fostering a culture of linguistic adaptability, cultural awareness, and academic excellence.

4.3 Language Assessment and Evaluation:

Our language curriculum includes English, Regional Language (Marathi), Hindi, and Foreign Language (French). Throughout the year, students are assessed and evaluated on their proficiency in all four language skills:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening

4.4 Reporting on Language

Periodic assessments of Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening skills are conducted through reading platforms like Raz-plus and other diagnostic tools, providing a comprehensive basis for evaluation. Both formative and summative assessments are seamlessly integrated into the language program, playing a vital role in the learning and teaching process.

Periodic assessments enable teachers to:

- Monitor student progress and identify areas of improvement
- Inform instruction and adjust teaching strategies
- Make data-driven decisions to optimize language learning

Summative assessments are conducted quarterly, at the end of each volume, to evaluate student learning and understanding. This regular assessment cycle:

- Ensures students meet desired learning outcomes
- Informs teacher instruction, enabling data-driven adjustments to optimize language learning
- Globalized this comprehensive approach, students demonstrate a deep understanding and mastery of each language, preparing them for:
 - Academic success
 - Effective communication in diverse contexts

By assessing student progress regularly, we foster a supportive learning environment that promotes linguistic excellence and sets students up for success in an increasingly globalized world.

4.5 Cultural Integration and Extracurricular Activities

At Empyrean, we have consistently emphasized the interconnectedness of language and culture, weaving it into our curriculum and extracurricular activities. To cater to our diverse student body, we offer multilingual instruction in Pre-Primary and Primary grades, fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates linguistic diversity.

Our school events, such as Elysian, showcase students' academic journey through dramatizations of plays from across the globe, highlighting their knowledge and creativity. Various school clubs - Literati, Book Nook, and Thespian - nurture a passion for language and literature by celebrating diverse cultural heritage through short plays, culinary festivals, and book reading sessions. Student-led initiatives, including our clubs, biannual magazine, Pegasus, and Whispers, an anthology of student poems, demonstrate our students' engagement with language and literature. We also foster collaborative engagement with our parent community, inviting parent clubs and guest speakers to partner with us in organizing events that refine our students' linguistic abilities, further enriching our language development initiatives.

5. Professional development of Teachers

At Empyrean, we believe that learning is a continuous journey, and our educators embody this principle through ongoing growth and development. We prioritize teacher empowerment, offering regular opportunities for language development skill enhancement through:

- Rigorous professional development via workshops and webinars
- In-house training sessions conducted by our Professional Learning Community (PLC) Team
- Collaborative planning, progress monitoring, and tailored support through regular departmental meetings

We believe language proficiency is a collective responsibility, extending beyond the language classroom. Therefore, all teachers, regardless of subject, are entrusted with promoting English proficiency and reinforcing language skills. To ensure tailored support, Department Heads, Subject Experts, and Programme Coordinators oversee specific learning outcomes in language at each grade level, guaranteeing a comprehensive approach to language education.

6. Support for Students- School interventions

The student community at Empyrean is diverse and includes first-generation learners as well. We recognize that English being the primary medium of instruction and communication might be a potential language barrier that may affect student learning.

To bridge the learning gap, we provide targeted support measures in the form of individual and group sessions.

We also acknowledge that all parents might not be fluent in English and thus all the teachers communicate with parents in multiple languages to ensure inclusivity and accessibility.

6.1 Language and Parent support

Our communication with parents is also in multiple languages, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility. School events also are also multilingual in nature to cater to the entire parent community.

6.2 Language and SEN

The school has an established process to identify the Students with Special needs.

Once identified, the students are referred to our school counselor, who develops a personalized Individualized Education Plan (IEP). This tailored plan is crafted through a series of structured meetings, ensuring parental consent and input. The IEP is designed to empower students to surpass their current abilities, achieving specific, measurable goals that foster academic, social, and personal growth.

	School Intervention
Students	Personalized sessions and regular interventions by teachers
Parents	Communication is multilingual
SEN	Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is to provide a plan to help a student meet individual outcomes or goals beyond his or her current skills.

6.3 Development and Maintenance of Mother Tongue

We believe that mother tongue plays a significant role in shaping an individual's identity and helps cognitive development, thus ensuring academic success. At Empyrean, we are committed to promoting different languages and providing dedicated support to our 1st generation learners and their parents. Events like celebration of 'International Mother language day' through theatrical and musical performances help students maintain a positive connection with their mother tongue, literature, and cultural heritage.

7. Resources

The school library is a rich repository of books, offering a diverse collection of books catering to all age groups. Each grade has a dedicated library period once a week for students to borrow books tailored to their interests and reading levels, fostering a love for reading and supporting their academic growth.

The library houses a wide range of genres and multilingual texts to support the diverse needs of our student body. The library is open each day (Monday to Friday) from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm, facilitating additional research and reading opportunities for students beyond the scheduled library periods. For the students in the Primary years, Library programmes like RIMP (Reading is My Passion) is conducted by the Librarian in collaboration with the Language teachers fostering a love for reading. A dedicated teacher resource area within the library, offers a wide range of articles, journals, and e-copies, ensuring teachers stay updated on the latest academic developments.

8. Review of Policy

Language Policy is a working document that will be regularly reviewed and updated by the following stakeholders:

- Principal
- Programme Coordinators
- Language Departmental Heads
- Librarian
- SEN Counselor

This periodic review ensures that the policy remains effective, relevant, and aligned with the school's evolving needs and goals.

9. References

a. Cambridge Principles into practices- languages guide for schools

<https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/support-and-training-for-schools/leading-learning-and-teaching-with-cambridge/guides-for-schools-and-school-leaders/cambridge-principles-into-practice-languages-guide-for-schools/>

b. Language Policy in Indian Schools- A point of view (Heritage Experiential School)

<https://www.heritageexperiential.org/language-policy-in-indian-schools-a-point-of-view/>

c. Language Policy 2019-20 (GIS)

<https://gatewayschools.edu.in/brochure/GIS-whole-school-language-Policy-2019-2020.pdf>

d. Language Policy (DYPIS)cy (DYPIS)

https://www.dypisworli.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/DYPIS-Policies_Lanuguage-POLICY.pdf

Name, Signature and stamp of Principal

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