



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Languages Policy

(V3.1 1906)

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Languages: Exemptions	2
3.	Languages: Principles and Pathways.....	2
4.	Languages: Applications of Standards	2
5.	Contact Information.....	3
6.	Policy Management	4



LANGUAGES POLICY V3.1 1906

1. Introduction

Brisbane Grammar School (**BGS** or the **School**) maintains a long-standing commitment to engaging its students in the learning of languages. Experience and confidence in understanding and learning about other cultures through language prepares young men to live and work effectively in a contemporary global community.

It is BGS policy that all boys study a language to the end of Year 9.

- In Years 5 and 6 the language course undertaken by all students is Spanish; and
- In Year 7 boys commence the study of one of Chinese, French, German or Japanese, in addition to the introductory Latin course undertaken by all students.

2. Languages: Exemptions

On the provision of documentation with evidence that supports an adjustment to the student's academic load, the Deputy Headmaster - Teaching and Learning may consider the case for exemption from mandatory study of a language.

3. Languages: Principles and Pathways

The continuing study of languages remains strong at BGS, with large numbers of boys electing to extend their mastery of a language through to the completion of their senior studies. The study of a language can also be advantageous in assisting student entry to some universities and the School's languages policy aligns closely with those of major tertiary institutions.

For those boys who demonstrate a particular talent and interest in the study of languages, there may be available the option of the extended study of Latin. To undertake the study of Latin in Year 9, students complete an application process which will include evaluation of academic performance in the study of languages as the key determining criterion, in addition to achievement in English. The School's position is that students benefit from undertaking language courses that are educationally appropriate and rewarding for them and where they can maximize improvement in linguistic proficiency. Entry to a BGS language course is at the sole discretion of the Deputy Headmaster – Teaching and Learning.

4. Languages: Applications of Standards

As our language courses are designed for students with no, or limited, experience prior to entry, BGS maintains a policy of not permitting a student to undertake a language course if, in the view of the School, the student has an existing familiarity with the language as defined below. A student's parents must inform the School if a student has significant prior experience with a language. A student will not be assigned to a language where he has significant prior experience with that language, in or across one or more skill areas (listening, speaking, reading or writing), and is adjudged to be at a point beyond beginner's level. Students with developed levels of experience in a language have, on occasion, enrolled in that language. In these cases, the School will reassign such students to another language once this significant prior experience becomes evident.



LANGUAGES POLICY V3.1 1906

The School's Languages Policy also applies to students who seek to enrol in or change to a language subject at a point beyond entry level. A change in the language studied by a student after commencement is not usual school practice but might occur, for example, at Year 11 level for entry to a Senior language course. Students seeking to enter a language subject at a year level later than Year 7 will need to sit a proficiency test set and conducted by the Languages Department. The results of the proficiency test will inform the decision of the Deputy Headmaster - Teaching and Learning as to the student's eligibility for entry to the language. The proficiency test will be used to ascertain that a student meets the minimum equivalent proficiency standards for entry and that he does not demonstrate a level of significant prior experience equal to or beyond that of the course's intended levels of language mastery. These levels of mastery are aligned to QCAA (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) syllabus standards.

Parents are strongly encouraged to contact the Head of Languages if they have any questions or require their son's language proficiency level to be determined prior to entry.

Please note that “significant prior experience” would not normally be attained by a student via the language learning activities typically undertaken in Queensland primary schools.

5. Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this document please contact:

- Deputy Headmaster – Teaching and Learning on dhm.curriculum@brisbanegrammar.com 07 3834 5200.
- Head of Languages on dhm.curriculum@brisbanegrammar.com 07 3834 5200.



LANGUAGES POLICY V3.1 1906

6. Policy Management

The School may, from time to time, review and update this document to take account of new laws and technology, changes to the School's operations and practices and to make sure it remains appropriate to the changing school environment.

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