



# Washington International School in Taichung

No.26, Buzaikeng Rd., Taiping Dist., Taichung City 411, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Tel: +886 4 2393 4712 Ext. 174

Fax: +886 4 2393 3865

<https://wist.whs.tc.edu.tw/wist/>

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## Washington International School in Taichung (WIST) Language Philosophy

### Language Philosophy

In line with our mission, vision, and schoolwide learning outcomes, the WIST language philosophy holds that language proficiency is not merely a tool for communication but a cornerstone of holistic development and academic excellence. Language serves as the key to unlock knowledge and enables effective self-expression. Additionally, we recognize the significance of language as a bridge for intercultural communication in our interconnected world, fostering confident engagement in diverse global contexts. Language proficiency extends to both traditional and digital forms, equipping our students with the skills to navigate the technology-driven landscape. Language fluency empowers critical thinking, enabling students to independently analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information. Finally, we firmly believe that language serves as the conduit for ethical global citizenship, promoting empathy, respect, and ethical conduct across cultures. Proficiency in multiple languages plays a pivotal role in nurturing responsible global citizens who contribute positively to our global society.

Through our language philosophy, we empower our students to become lifelong learners and compassionate individuals who can thrive in an increasingly interconnected world, aligning closely with our mission, vision, and schoolwide learning outcomes.

### Language Statement

Washington International School in Taichung (WIST) embraces the diversity of cultures and languages that our students and community members bring to our educational environment. While English serves as the primary language of the school, the WIST community recognizes that languages are not just tools of communication but gateways to understanding, appreciation, and unity among different cultures. For this reason, WIST values the use of a student's mother tongue to facilitate understanding and learning. As a community, we aim to work together to instill a sense of international mindedness in all students. Our language principles align closely with the recommendations outlined by the Ministry of Education (MOE) regarding bilingual education, as well as the goals set forth in the Taiwanese government's 'Bilingual 2030' policy. We recognize the profound influence of language on one's identity, cognitive development, and social integration. Language mastery at WIST is considered a cornerstone for academic excellence, fostering intercultural understanding, and nurturing social-emotional skills and we firmly believe that language serves as an indispensable foundation for learning.

**Purpose and General Principles:**

At WIST, we uphold an "English First Language Policy." This policy serves as a guideline for prioritizing English as the primary language of instruction and communication within our school community while taking into account the diverse linguistic variations. This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors during school hours and at official school functions.

**Objectives:**

- **Effective Communication:** English serves as a common medium of communication that allows for clear and efficient communication between students and staff from diverse linguistic backgrounds.
- **Academic Excellence:** English proficiency is essential for academic success by ensuring that students can access learning materials, engage in discussions, and demonstrate knowledge effectively.
- **Global Preparedness:** English is a global language used in international business, diplomacy, and academia. Proficiency in English equips our students with the skills they need to succeed in a globalized world.
- **Equal Participation:** Implementing an "English First Language Policy" ensures that all students, regardless of their mother tongue, have equal access to information and equal participation in classroom activities.

**Implementation:**

- **Instruction:** English shall be the medium of instruction, encompassing classroom teaching, lessons, assignments, and assessments, for all core subjects, including mathematics, sciences, business, STEAM, and Humanities.
- **Communication:** All WIST announcements, notices, and official correspondence will be bilingual: Chinese and English.
- **Conversations:** Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to communicate in English, especially during school hours and at official events. This practice promotes language skills and creates a consistent learning environment.
- **Support:** Washington International School in Taichung (WIST) provides English language support programs aimed at enhancing students' language proficiency. Currently, the following support measures are in effect:
  - Upon students' enrollment, they undergo language proficiency assessments, which inform the placement of students into class groups based on their language proficiency. This approach enables teachers to tailor their instruction to cater to students' language development needs.

- Student placement based on English proficiency fosters a gradual progression, providing students with scaffolded learning before moving on to more advanced language skills.
- The placement of students according to their English proficiency ensures continuous monitoring of their language development. As students make strides in their language skills, they have the opportunity to transition into more challenging levels, enabling them to effectively continue their language development journey.
- **Respect for Diversity:** While English is the primary language, the school recognizes and respects the linguistic diversity of its community. Cultural events and activities that celebrate other languages and cultures will be encouraged.

### **Monitoring and Review:**

The English First Language Policy will be periodically reviewed by the school administration to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the school's objectives. Feedback from students, parents, and staff will be incorporated into the evaluation process.

### **Exceptions:**

Exceptions to this policy may be made in cases involving students with specific learning needs or when language proficiency is a barrier to understanding crucial information. Such exceptions will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the academic coordination team.

### **Conclusion:**

By adhering to an "English First Language Policy," Washington International School in Taichung aims to provide a supportive and globally-oriented educational experience that prepares students for a successful future while respecting their individual backgrounds and identities.

### **Translation Disclaimer:**

The translation of this document is provided for informational purposes only. While we strive to ensure accuracy, translations may not be perfect and can vary based on context, language nuances, and other factors. Please note that the original document or text always takes precedence over this translation. While we have made every effort to provide an accurate translation, variations in language, context, and interpretation may occur. We do not accept responsibility for any errors, omissions, or misinterpretations that may occur in the translation.

### **AI Assistance Disclosure Statement**

Artificial intelligence (AI) played a role in assisting with the creation and drafting of this document, but it underwent extensive scrutiny and refinement by human experts to guarantee its accuracy, comprehensiveness, and alignment with our school's objectives and principles.

The use of AI technology is intended to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our documentation development process. However, it is essential to emphasize that the final content and decisions reflect the collective input, expertise, and judgment of our team.