SKH St. Mary’s Church Mok Hing Yiu College

Whole-School Language Policy

Rationale

Our Whole-School Language Policy is formulated in accordance with relevant guidelines provided by the EDB to cater for the specific needs of our students. Our policy takes into account the structure and particular characteristics of our school on one hand, and our students’ abilities on the other, thereby adhering to the criteria of school support, teacher capability and student ability. Under our Language Policy, the two crucial factors determining our Medium of Instruction (MOI) are as follows:

(a) Students’ profile with S1 allocation results provided by the EDB since 2010/11.
(b) Particular needs and abilities of our students.

Part 1. Multilingual Measures

Our school aims at biliteracy and trilingualism which acknowledge the power of mother-tongue teaching while giving due emphasis to the proficiency in English and Putonghua. Our fine-tuned MOI arrangements are the product of the rationale described above, and are outlined in the following subsections.

Part 2. Language Across the Curriculum (LAC)

Our school aims to develop a rich culture of Language Across the Curriculum (LAC) and to implement corresponding measures to facilitate a steady and sustained progression from CMI classes in S1 to EMI classes in S2 and S3. In this respect, our LAC measures not only facilitate collaboration between English teachers and EMI subject teachers and enrich students’ English exposure, but also bridge the gap between our S1 CMI curriculum and S2 and S3 EMI classes.

An EMI preparatory curriculum, i.e. LAC lessons, is conducted in S1 for Mathematics, Integrated Science, Geography, Computer Literacy, and Technology & Living. These subjects are taught in English in the EMI classes in S2 and S3.

Part 3. EMI Classes and English Enhancement Classes

(a) Arrangement
   i. To cater for students’ diversity in receiving EMI education, we provide EMI classes for more able students and English Enhancement classes for less able students in S2 & S3.
   ii. In EMI classes, 5 subjects other than English Language, i.e. Mathematics, Integrated Science, Geography, Computer Literacy, Technology & Living, are taught in English.
iii. In English Enhancement classes, 2 subjects other than English Language, i.e. Mathematics & Integrated Science, are taught in English.

(b) Rationale

The rationale underpinning our policy of providing our S1 students with the opportunity to study certain subjects in English has two important components:

i. We believe that streaming students in S2 allows a more even-handed assessment of students’ abilities and is thereby a more effective way of streaming than relying solely on their primary academic records and the pre-S1 attainment test results.

ii. We also believe that allowing students one year to adapt to the secondary school life may help them realize their abilities and needs to study in English.

(c) Criteria for Streaming

The effective selection of students for the S2 EMI class is a determining component of our MOI measures and is rigorously undertaken. In order to be placed in the S2 EMI class a student must meet one or more of the following:

i. Be placed in the top 36 according to their academic performance in English Language and achieve a pass in all other subjects;

ii. Be an active participant in our English extra-curricular programmes;

iii. Achieve high scores in our pre-S1 attainment test.

Selection of students for placement in the EMI class in S2 is made by our English Panel Head and NET. The final selection needs to be endorsed by our Academic Committee.

Part 4. Extended Learning Activities (ELA)

Our school conducts Extended Learning Activities (ELA) in English for CMI classes to enhance the English learning environment of students. These ELA are due to be increased to 25% of the total lesson time. They are implemented in the following modes:

(a) Cross-curricular English enrichment programmes through the collaboration of non-language and English Language subject teachers.
(b) Teaching individual modules or themes in English in the relevant subjects.
(c) Using EMI with regard to the nature of the learning material.
(d) Strengthening the bridging programmes of the relevant subjects to facilitate a smooth transition for students who choose to switch to EMI learning at senior secondary levels.
(e) Allocating certain lesson time of individual subjects to go through in English the concepts and contents that have been taught in the mother tongue.
Part 5. Goals and Mission

Our whole-school Language Policy and MOI measures are designed for the betterment of our students. We aim to provide our students with a coherent progression of differentiated opportunities from S1 through to senior levels. Our commitment to improving the English proficiency and all-round academic strength of our studentship is constant. We believe the policy and measures outlined in this document equip them well for study at university and work in Hong Kong.