

# TED BURSA COLLEGE LANGUAGE POLICY

TED Bursa College aims to cultivate students that can communicate well in both their mother tongue as well as other languages in their personal and professional lives, both in Turkey and abroad. Education in more than one language fosters personal growth, enhances cognitive abilities and is essential to the development of international mindedness. Our goal is for all our students to be successful and set examples in our community by utilizing their interactive skills.

Language is an important part of a country's culture, heritage and identity. Therefore, all individuals should excel in this area both academically and personally. Every teacher at TED Bursa College is aware of the importance of language development and do their best to meet this goal.

TED Bursa College is also aware that the native language is a very important element in learning foreign languages. Thus, both IB DP (International Baccalaureate Diploma Program) students and Turkish National program students have Turkish lessons accordingly. Our school follows this policy to provide students with a variety of language skills.

TED Bursa College also aims to educate international students, so we teach foreign languages at every level in our school starting from kindergarten. This allows students to develop as multilinguals and gain a deeper understanding of the culture of their country. Students need to be excellent at their native languages to learn a foreign language; they need to have a strong grammar background. Therefore, we place great importance on teaching both native and foreign languages.

While English and Turkish are the most common languages within the school, the use of other languages in appropriate circumstances is welcomed and celebrated.

## Mother-Tongue Instruction

Mother tongue instruction aims to help students shape their skill in a practical way in the activities that they participate in and outside of school. Our students, who gain the ability to think, speak and have a wide vocabulary in their mother tongue, turn these gains into products. They find the opportunity to utilize their knowledge in school magazine studies, debates, national and international competitions.

In our school, mother tongue development is supported in both fields, the IB and the national program. Acquisitions such as reading literary works, examining academic articles, evaluating these works critically are studies done from the preparatory classes to the 12th grade.

Language policy is a policy that is taken care of not only within the scope of language lessons, but also in all lessons. Academic effort is not compromised in the use of mother tongue or foreign language.

The native language policy of TED Bursa College aims that our students will

- be fluent in their native language.
- be aware that language is a part of culture and there can be influences of geography and cultural elements on the language.
- express themselves with idioms and collocations.
- be able to write texts that express their thoughts and use their language skills
- be familiar with different kinds of literary works and learn how to evaluate them.
- improve their literary skills to reach academic standards.
- work on translated literary works to learn the common senses in different languages.
- learn the differences of idioms and colloquial language and compare them with different languages to see the differences.
- learn to appreciate a variety of authors and poets from different cultures and styles.

TED Bursa College offers a bilingual program with both Turkish and English used as medium of instruction. We aim for our students to use English effectively; writing in English in national and international platforms, and expressing themselves in English with confidence. TED promotes international clubs such as MUN, Global Citizenship, and the Erasmus Program. By participating in these activities, students are given the opportunity to use their acquired language skills in a real-life setting.

## English Language Policy

TED Bursa College's English language education is based on the Common European Framework, and it is being implemented in all TED schools. TED is held in line with the original English curriculum which is approved by the Ministry of Education, and it predicates the integrity of K-12.

In order to validate the quality of English education in our school by independent international centers, our students are encouraged to take international exams such as Starters, Movers, Flyers, KET, PET, FCE, IELTS, SAT, TOEFL IBT and TOEFL Junior.

The English program at TED Bursa College Pre-school starts at the age of 4, thus giving the opportunity to children from a young age onwards to absorb the new language(s) as a whole. Students are immersed in language-rich classrooms integrating activities and interactions which support English language development. The students develop language skills by reading, performing, writing stories, spelling bees, and working with specific language materials such as Alphabet Hunt and Flashcard Games. In our school, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade English lessons are taught by native teachers.

In our 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, an intensive English program is implemented. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade English Program includes 16 hours of English lessons as well as 2 hours of Science and Math courses in English in order to teach terminology. Since English is used as a medium of instruction in Science and Math lessons in high school, through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade English program we aim for our students to prepare for high school education.

Before entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade, students whose English level do not meet the standard are given a preparatory English year with 22 hours of intensive English classes per week along with instruction of Math and Science lessons in English as well. During the prep year, students 10 of the 22 instruction hours are taught by a Native English teacher. These lessons are focused on reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. To develop their skills, students give presentations, write different text types, practice intonation, listen to speakers with different accents from different countries, and read articles to develop their Lexile levels as well as short stories and other literary works.

English language learners study English as their B Language from 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade at IB DP level. English B Course develops students' language and literacy competence in English as well as intercultural competence. In the IB DP, students study English B at the higher level.

One of the advantages of the IB DP is the requirement for all students to learn a second language; either continuing earlier study or AB initio. Those students for whom English is an additional language (Language B) are qualified to receive a bilingual diploma.

Furthermore, computer aided education programs at all levels are used in our school to promote language education.

English language education in our elementary, middle, and high school level are monitored with exams given by TED Headquarters.

TED Bursa College believes that offering a good language education is the way to raise individuals with improved social, cultural and communication skills.

English language policy of TED Bursa College aims that our students will;

- be motivated to read, discuss and make comments on a text written in English
- communicate in and outside the country in English on a daily basis.
- use English at an academic level and to be able to think critically
- use correct and effective language
- be aware of the fact that learning a language is necessary and; therefore, they will constantly try to enrich their vocabulary knowledge both in Turkish and in English
- be able to recognize their own nation and the nations of the world through oral and written universal and national products
- be able to use information and communication technology to improve language skills.
- attain proficiency in social language, as well as to improve the language skills required for academic success.
- use bibliography and referencing formats such as MLA, APA effectively

## 2nd Foreign Language Policy

Our school provides education in two different second foreign languages (French & German). The main purpose of the education is to guide our students to acquire the basic language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening within the scope of their level. We aim for all of our students to reach the desired level in their communication skills.

We believe that culture and language are inseparable values. Based on this, we show our students plenty of examples of cultural elements in both target languages.

Our students are encouraged to take the internationally recognized DELF and TELC exams that we organize every year at our school in order to measure their progress in second foreign language education.

Our lessons start in the 5th grade of secondary school. 5th, 6th and 7th grades receive 4 hours of second foreign language education per week, and 8th graders receive 2 hours per week of second foreign language education. Students receive 4 hours of lessons per week in prep classes in high school. Our lesson hours continue as 2 in 9th, 10th and 11th grades. Our students in the IB Turkish-Math track, on the other hand, see this course as AB Initio for 4 hours a week in the 10th and 11th grades.

In the AB Initio course, our students receive training that can turn the topics gathered under 5 basic themes into basic skills in two years. Within the framework of these themes, it is aimed that our students gain the ability to use their reading comprehension, writing, listening comprehension and speaking skills fluently. In addition, the fact that internationally recognized language exams show similar goals with the AB Initio exams contributes to the level of readiness of the students for this course.

In line with the objectives of the Foreign Language course, our students,

- gain the language skills to introduce their close environment and to establish relations
- can express opinions on issues related to daily life and understand what is said.
- can write different text types such as letters, petitions, CVs, e-mails, notes, greeting cards and blogs.
- In speaking, it is aimed that students can easily form sentences that can express themselves, comment on the topics they like or dislike, and at the same time make verbal criticism on the given topic.
- can read and understand the articles published in daily news sources (websites, newspapers, magazines, etc.) within the scope of the subjects learned in parallel with the course.
- can understand the authentic listening texts prepared within the course content at a level to be able to answer the target questions.

In TED Bursa College, it is believed that language teaching and the responsive approach to the mother tongue is not only the responsibility of language teachers, but also for teachers in all disciplines and levels. In addition, all staff should use the language as our main communication tool, and in a broader sense all the languages that are taught in school effectively.