



Language Policy

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to inform teaching and learning in the classroom, to guide curriculum and to involve the whole school community in our goal to educate children in an internationally-minded environment. This document outlines the philosophy and practice of language instruction at GMIS - Bali and demonstrates how GMIS- Bali supports students' acquisition of our language of instruction (English) and our host country Language (Bahasa Indonesia). It also shows how GMIS - Bali supports continued use of a student's mother tongue (the language spoken at home).

The School has provision to offer English Intensive Classes for new students who are new to English which is the medium of instruction.

Philosophy

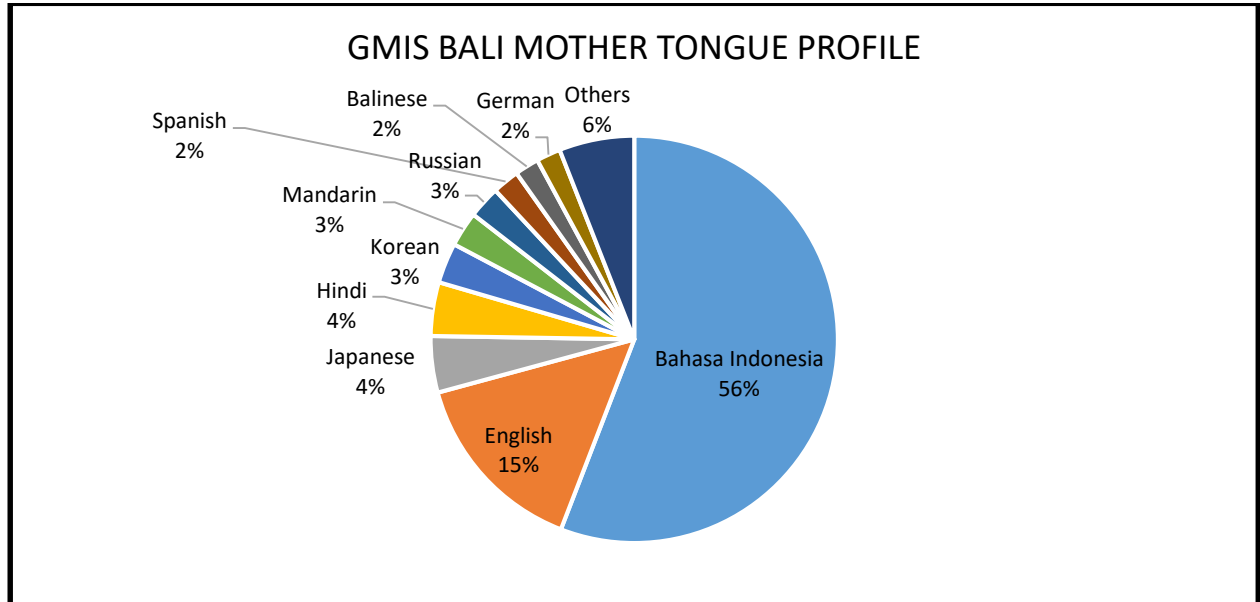
In GMIS – Bali we believe that

- All teachers are language teachers.
- The school should provide support to students who require to develop a level of proficiency in the medium of Instruction through Intensive English Classes.
- Language is a primary means of learning and communicating.
- Language acquisition is to be promoted as a partnership between all members of our community including parents, students, teachers and non-teaching staff
- Mother tongue languages help form cultural and personal identity and should be respected and supported.
- The shared experience of learning language creates cohesion among students from diverse backgrounds and promotes international-mindedness.
- Learning world languages is an integral part of becoming a global citizen.



Mother Tongue Profile

In the 2016 – 2017 academic school year, GMIS -Bali has approximately 500 students. Languages spoken by students at school include Spanish, Hindi, German and Japanese. 60 % of the students are bilingual being well proficient in English and Bahasa Indonesia.



Language	Percentage
Bahasa Indonesia	56%
English	15%
Japanese	4%
Hindi	4%
Korean	3%
Mandarin	3%
Russian	3%
Spanish	2%
Balinese	2%
German	2%
Others*	6%

Other Mother Tongue:

Belgian	Bengali	Dutch	Hungarian	Javanese	Lebanese
Malayalam	Marathi	Portuguese	Romanian	Sundanese	Swedish
Tagalog	Tamil	Telugu	Timorese	Ukrainian	Vietnamese



Aims:

All GMIS - Bali teachers, administrative staff, parents and students work to:

- Enable students to learn and use language confidently in a variety of contexts.
- Increase students' skill of written and oral communication and provide environment and opportunities for effective communication in the language of instruction.
- Promote student understanding and enjoyment of literature.
- Allow students to explore different perspectives through language.
- Encourage students to have fun and express themselves through language.

Support of Mother Tongue Languages

- Both Expat and Local Teachers at GMIS are bilingual and provide a support for their Mother Tongues apart from the support to the medium of instruction
- Classroom bulletins, newsletters (with contributions by students/teachers/parents) and other publications are available in Spanish, German, Bahasa Indonesia, Korean, Japanese and Hindi.
- The library and classrooms include materials that support continued use of the mother tongue.
- Teachers and students are free to use Mother Tongue as a means of expression for further support of teaching and learning.
- Formation of language clubs to support literary activities in a particular Mother Tongue Language.
- Diverse activities to support mother tongue language composition writing, poem recital, morning assembly presentation and United Nations Day celebration.
- Mother Tongue Day is observed and celebrated to highlight the importance of Mother Tongue and provide further support.

Support of the Language of Instruction

At GMIS – Bali the medium of instruction for all subjects is English except in Language acquisition classes and Language and Literature Bahasa classes. At the time of admission all students are required to take a mandatory English language examination. If Basic English proficiency is found to be lacking, the student is given formal support through Intensive English Classes, as is outlined in the proceeding paragraphs of this document. These are part of a comprehensive program through which students acquire the skills and knowledge needed to access the regular curriculum.

The standard of English is maintained at a consistently high level by:-

- The students are required to read and develop good reading habits.
- They are also encouraged to use the library and to develop clear and articulate methods of communication.



Intensive English Classes

- The School offers English Intensive Classes for new students who are new to English which is the medium of instruction.
- For grades 1 to 5, these students do not attend English and Unit of Inquiry classes but instead attend English Intensive class for a complete 1 term (i.e. August to December or January to June).
- For grades 6 to 12, students do not attend any classes in Science, Geography, History but instead attend the English Intensive, Physical & Health Education, Math, ICT, Music and Art classes for a complete 1 term (i.e. August to December or January to June).
- Whether the students have acquired the necessary understanding and proficiency of the target language to pursue other regular classes or will continue with English Intensive classes, will be judged based on a standardized English test after a complete one term.

Support for the Host Country Language

GMIS -Bali provides support to our students and their parents to enable them to adapt to the new language and the new learning environment.

- Bahasa Indonesia support classes offered to teachers.
- Newsletters in Bahasa Indonesia for language learning.

Bahasa Indonesia is offered in the following Programmes.

- Diploma Programme (Grade 11 – 12) – Group 1 and Group 2 subject options
- Middle Years Programme (Grades 6 – 10) – Language & Literature (Advanced) , Language Acquisition
- Primary Years Programme - Bahasa Indonesia (Standard / Advanced)

School Responsibility

- Implementing reading and writing strategies across the curriculum.
- Selecting and providing access to literature from a variety of cultural backgrounds from all over the world.
- Providing multiple opportunities at all levels of instruction for students to write in a variety of genres.
- Allowing students ample choice in their reading materials and encouraging reading for enjoyment.
- Developing a language profile for each student which is an ongoing development document.



Teachers' Responsibilities (Common Practice for all Teachers)

- **All teachers are Language teachers**
- **Support of Language of Instruction:**
 - Awareness about the language profile of their students and the steps that are required to support them according to the School's language policy.
- **Support of Mother Tongue:**
 - Awareness & implementation of school's Language Policy to support Mother Tongue.
- **Support of Host Country Language:**
 - Awareness and implementation of the school's Language Policy to promote Host Country Language.

Students' Responsibilities

- **Support of Language of Instruction:**
 - Use School support to maintain and improve their proficiency in the language of instruction.
- **Support of Mother Tongue:**
 - Be respectful to languages spoken by other fellow students and teachers.
- **Support of Host Country Language:**
 - Use different school resources to strive and achieve a level of familiarity with the host country language.
 - All students formally study the host country language at various phases of study.



Parents Responsibility

- **Support of Language of Instruction:**
 - Aware of their child's language of instruction level and the support that the school offers to enhance that level.

- **Support of Mother Tongue:**
 - Provide a conducive environment at home to foster continued communication in the Mother Tongue.

- **Support of Host Country Language:**
 - Seek support from the school to foster growth of host country language.

Ongoing Review of the Language Policy

This policy will be formally reviewed yearly by GMIS -Bali by the 3 IB program continuum coordinators at the end of each academic year and after seeking advice from the Principal and respective supervisors will be revised as needed to adapt to changing best practices and the needs of our learning community.

This policy is available to all stakeholders in the GMIS- Bali School Community, via the school official website, on the local school network as soft copy and as hard copies in the offices of the Principal, Supervisors , the 3 program coordinators and at the school reception .The school leadership welcomes comments and recommendations at any time.