



LANGUAGE POLICY

Language Policy

School's Philosophy Regarding Language

Currently the Portuguese language is spoken by about 244 million people and it is the official language of several countries spread around some continents as Angola, Brazil, Macau, Mozambique or Timor.

Following a western perspective, CA promotes a solid training in the Portuguese language regarded not only as a precious cultural inheritance but also as a privileged means of display of its country's national history and culture.

Despite the fact that 98% of our students are native speakers of Portuguese and that CA is not an international school, throughout the last few years we have seen a growing demand from foreign students which has been enlarging and diversifying our school community.

All teachers are language teachers.

Students have the opportunity to engage in realistic and meaningful language learning experiences within a positive and encouraging environment.

Language learning refers not only to the acquisition of another language, but also to the understanding of a different culture, and reinforces international-mindedness and cultural identity.

Teachers employ a variety of formative and summative assessment strategies and instructional methods that encourage the development of listening, speaking, reading, writing and presentation skills.

The Language Curriculum

In a world undeniably global, our school also recognizes proficiency in the English language as a priority as it is widely considered to be the universal communication language setting bridges between the most diverse countries and cultures.

In our school all the students start English lessons at the age of three and it is a substantial part of the syllabus up to year 12 – the end of secondary school.

CA is a *Cambridge University Press Premium Educational Partner* and provides all the students with the opportunity to assess and certificate their level of English as follows:

- Starters Exam;
- Movers Exam;
- KEY for Schools;
- PET Exam;
- First Certificate of English;

By doing so we believe we are preparing our students to be part of a globalized world being conscious and ready to face any challenge worldwide.

From Year 7 on our curriculum contemplates another compulsory second language: French or Spanish. From this academic year on our students will also have the opportunity to assess and certificate their language level on these two subjects, namely through *Alliance Française* and Instituto Cervantes.

On the Annual Activity Plan CA always contemplates several activities related with these foreign languages:

English:

- Yearly school trip to London (Year 6);
- Celebrate some English traditions such as Guy Fawkes Day, Pancake Day, St. Patrick's Day, World Book Day;
- Participate in Erasmus + Projects with several different countries in the EU.

French:

- Yearly school trip to Paris (Year 9);

Spanish:

- Yearly school trip to different Spanish cities (Years 7 and 8).

Other Activities:

- Commemorative weeks for all the languages taught at school, developing different activities related to the language in question: exhibitions, debates, film sessions, author's visits, school trips, spelling contests;
- International Literary Show.

Language Status

Language of communication: the official language of communication in school is Portuguese which is the mother tongue of around 99% of its community.

Language of instruction: teaching and learning will occur on both languages - Portuguese and English – enabling students to understand, communicate and interact fluently and confidently as bilingual.

Response language: the language in which students engage in internal and external assessment is English with the exception of subjects in Group 1 and 2, which depend on what they consider to be their mother tongue.

In CA every teacher is seen as a language teacher, being responsible for the teaching and learning of its native tongue as well as the response language in which students will perform their assessment.

CA will support students' mother tongues as well as provide support in the developing of other languages fostering student development in all areas of knowledge.

If the school does not provide the student's mother tongue or strongest language (Language A) in its regular programme, then the school strongly recommends that parents to opt to have this language be taught externally.

Procedures for Admission concerning language competency

Acceptance of a student into the CA Diploma Programme will only be confirmed after having accomplished the following procedures:

CA Students:

- The student has presented a Cambridge Preliminary English Test Certificate and has committed to take the Cambridge First Certificate of English during Year 10;
- In case of considering taking English Language and Literature in Groups 1 or 2, the student has presented a Cambridge Advanced Certificate of English;

Students new to the school:

- The student has presented a *Cambridge Preliminary English Test Certificate* and has committed to take the *Cambridge First Certificate of English* during Year 10. In case the student does not have a *PET Certificate*, must submit to an Internal English Examination, which requires a minimum level of B1.
- In case of considering taking English Language and Literature in Groups 1 or 2, the student has presented a *Cambridge Advanced Certificate of English*;

NOTE: This document should be read in conjunction with all other school policies – Admission Policy, Assessment Policy, Special Needs Policy and Academic Honesty Policy.

References:

International Baccalaureate Organization (2008) *Guidelines for developing a school language policy*