

English Language Policy Stage 6-8 National & International Academic year: 2023-2024

At the National Orthodox School, languages go hand in hand with the mission and vision of the school. Our learners are the center of the teaching process through which we aim to develop their critical thinking and self-dependency. Learning a language means by default exposure to other cultures and traditions which eventually helps our students become more understanding and respectful towards other cultures.

The four skills covered in English at NOS:

There are four major skills which we cover throughout the year. These skills follow a spiral and an ongoing approach across the different levels and stages at school. The skills are:

- **Reading Comprehension Skills**

-Reading Comprehension in texts: Students are exposed to a different variety of literary and non-literary texts to detect the main ideas and the supporting details. Students learn the importance of examining the use of language in conveying themes in given texts, as well as implicit and explicit meaning of the words used in texts.

-Reading Comprehension and Literary Appreciation: Students read a variety of literary selections to identify the features of the different genres across literature. Literary selections also help students understand the stylistic features and discuss the writer's message, but above all, the purpose of these selections is the enjoyment of literature and the exposure to other cultures which ultimately makes our students global citizens.

Resource: Our current Literature book is 'Into Literature' for the stage 6-8 as follows:

- **Writing Skills**

Students will cover different types of writing this year which are based on Cambridge Framework for the international classes, while the national stream follows the same path to a certain extent because writing types are applicable to both streams. We are aware that our students struggle with writing; therefore, we decided to do the following:

-While teachers are working on introducing the major writing type/task to our students, there will be through simple weekly writing assignments to reinforce the writing criteria. These assignments include:

-Daily journal

-Reflection on a literary selection

-Paragraph writing to reinforce grammatical concepts

-Summary of the Individual Reading of the week OR any other assignments

Writing Criteria:

CRITERION	MARKS
Creation of texts	5
Vocabulary and Language	3
Grammar and Punctuation	7
Structures of texts	7
Word Structure [Spelling] and the use of wide variety of words	3
TOTAL	25

Note: Teachers will introduce and explain the writing criteria for the students in detail before they start the actual writing. An email will be sent to parents explaining this as well.

- **Grammar:**

Grammatical concepts will be introduced on weekly basis and linked effectively with the different types of writing as required per level. Students will receive study sheets and worksheets to cover and work on these grammatical concepts.

- **Listening Skills:**

Students will develop their listening skills through drills. Teachers will expose students to a set of questions based on an audio which they will listen to in order to complete those questions.

- **Speaking Skills:**

Students will develop their speaking skills by:

1. Preparing proverbs or pieces of news which they share with their classmates for the first few minutes of the class.
2. Speaking activities such as sketches or presentations.
3. Group work and all class discussions should be in English.
4. Speaking projects

- **Assessment:**

The assessment is two types:

1. Formative Assessment: Daily homework - Daily Classwork-Quizzes
2. Summative Assessment: Monthly tests
3. Projects: Third-month assessment

Which skills are included in the assessment?

The assessment includes the four skills; however, the major percentage of the grade is on the Reading Comprehension Skills and the Writing Skills.

Individual Reading Programme (IRP):

Our students will have a weekly assignment of reading the following:

1. **Novels:** Students will have to complete in 2 weeks

Resource: hard copy novels or digital edition from the book 'Into Literature' or any other resource.

2. **Informational Texts:** Students will have one week to complete

Resource: hard copy given by the teacher or sent as soft copy from the book 'Into Literature' or any other resource

3. **Poetry & Other selections:** Students will have one week to complete

Resource: hard copy given by the teacher or sent as soft copy from the book 'Into Literature' or any other resource.

- **Competitions:**

Details of these two competitions will be sent in due date. Parents are encouraged to check the calendar. We acknowledge the effort and hard work of each student; therefore, winners will receive certificates and awards, but we will also thank all participants by distributing certificates of participation as an encouragement.

- **Individual Improvement Action Plan (IIAP):**

We are aware that there are students who struggle with learning English; therefore, we came up with an individual plan to cater for the needs of those students. After the first-month assessment, we collect the names of the students who are struggling and put them on this plan. First, we inform the parents and communicate with them the details of the plan and then we start giving extra work over the weekend to help improve the student's level. We monitor their progress and share all information with parents.

We wish you all a fruitful and successful year at NOS