

SCHOOL LANGUAGE POLICY

Purpose

At Knowledge Tree, language is more than a subject—it's the foundation of all learning. Our policy sets out how we use language across the school to support academic growth, emotional connection, and inclusion, especially as we follow the Cambridge Pathway in an international classroom.

Language Aims & Principles

- - English as the Primary Teaching Language: From Lower Secondary through IGCSE and A Levels, English is the main medium of instruction across subjects following Cambridge syllabuses.
- - Balanced Bilingualism in Primary: In Primary (ages 6–11), we teach both English and Romanian—each with regular weekly lessons—so children build strong foundations in both languages.
- - Supporting Multilingual Learners: We celebrate all students' native languages, encouraging them to use their home language when it helps understanding. We don't just tolerate multilingualism—we believe it enriches learning and identity.
- - Developing Academic English: All teachers, whether native or non-native English speakers, design lessons with attention to academic language—vocabulary, writing, discussion—so learners build confidence to use English across contexts.
- - Mother Tongue Respect: Families are encouraged to support their home languages. We reflect this in daily routines, student portfolios, and events where multiple languages are welcomed.

How We Put This into Practice

A clear structure by age:

- Primary (6–11): split between Romanian and English lessons for children to grow in both.
- Lower Secondary and beyond (11+): instruction shifts fully into English, as students follow Cambridge syllabuses through IGCSE and A Levels.

Staff awareness: Teachers receive guidance on how to support students for whom English is an additional language—through strategies like using visuals, peer support, and clear scaffolding.

Cross-school consistency: Communication (emails, newsletters, notices) is provided in both English and Romanian. Collaborators are encouraged to use English in meetings and planning sessions to build shared understanding.

Home–school connection: Families are invited to share cultural stories, language traditions, or help create multilingual displays in classrooms—because parents are key partners in language development.

Monitoring & Review

Progress is observed through student work (portfolios, journals), peer sharing among teachers, and feedback from families. We review our language approach each term, especially during student transitions from bilingual to full English instruction. Professional development includes support for teachers on language planning, Cambridge academic language, and strategies for multilingual classrooms.

Summary

This policy ensures that Knowledge Tree is a place where languages open doors—scientific, cultural, emotional, and human—without creating barriers. It respects who our students are and prepares them to thrive on a global stage.