



Language Philosophy and Policy
2010, 2014
Updated and Revised by School Staff
2020, 2024

West Bay's Mission Statement

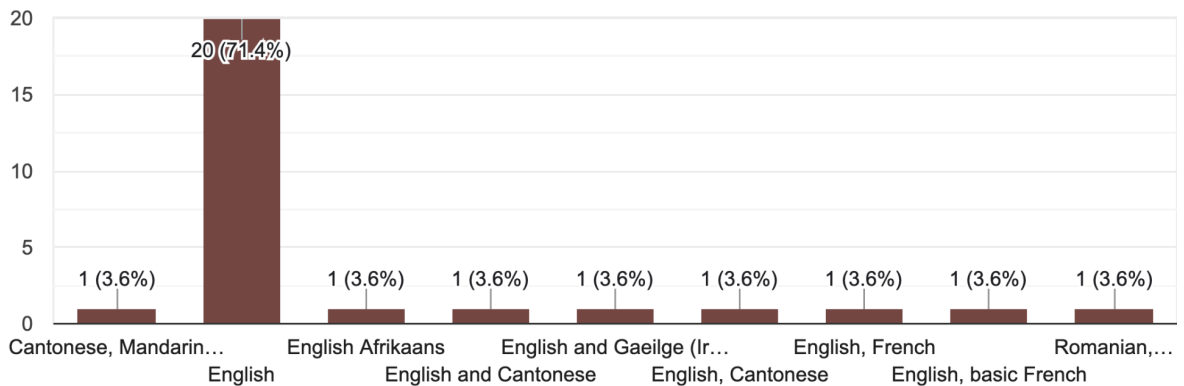
"In an atmosphere of mutual respect, West Bay inspires, encourages and challenges students to become active, compassionate lifelong learners within their local and global communities."

Language Profile of West Bay:

Language profiles of the students: We have 127 students identified as ELL learners, which represents 30% of the school population. There are 28 languages represented, with most of our English Language Learners (ELL) speaking Mandarin, Cantonese, Farsi, and Russian.

Our staff comes from a diverse language background. A 2024 survey produced the following results.

What is your linguistical background? (Languages spoken fluently) List as many as apply to you.
28 responses





Language Philosophy

At West Bay, we value diversity and inclusion. We know that language diversity develops international mindedness within our school community. Through sharing our personal cultural identity, we strive to understand who we are in a changing global world. We are open-minded and celebrate the languages represented at West Bay. We understand that language is an important means for appreciating diversity and that language connects us.

All students have the ability to achieve their language potential. As a result, it is our responsibility at West Bay to guide students on their learning journey. Through regular and early exposure to other languages such as French language instruction starting from Kindergarten, one's ability to learn will be more successful. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, specialists, and administration, to support the language development of all children.

Culture 4.2: The school describes in its language policy the way that the school recognizes multilingualism as a fact, a right and a resource for learning. (0301-04-0200)

Support for Translanguaging and Student Language Profiles

At West Bay, we honour all students' languages. We support students conversing in any language and encourage translanguaging. We do this by encouraging students to:

- Read print and online resources in their preferred language
- Speak in their preferred language
- Write in their preferred language
- Translanguage with word substitutions

At West Bay, we feel it is our responsibility to support and provide language services to families. We do this by:

- Bringing in translators and community supports to families (Settlement Workers In Schools)
- Providing IB documents in different languages when available
- To encourage visual presence of different languages around West Bay
- Inviting families to share stories, share celebrations, cultural events, when authentic, and relevant such as Norooz, Lunar New Year, Dawali, and Ramadan
- Creating translations of important documents for families (Communicating Student Learning documents, safety practices, etc)
- Asking families to bring in books to be shared in our library and in the classrooms that support language profile development



- Celebrating International Mother Language Day annually
- Making available books in our library in a variety of languages
- Providing on-going support from an English Language Learning Teacher
- Sharing with parents our language policy, structures to support language learning in the home and at school, and available resources
- Planning time with Language Specialists and the IB Coordinator
- English language teacher works with teachers to plan for language learning

Culture 4.4: The school clearly describes in its language policy the rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community and what constitutes good practice within the school context. (0301-04-0400)

Learning of the host country/regional language and culture

At West Bay, we acknowledge that we are on the territory of the Skwxwú7mesh and are learning to include Indigenous greetings and acknowledge the land in which we learn on a regular basis. Learning involves helping students understand and appreciate Canadian culture and, in doing so, we recognize that Canadian identity celebrates diversity. At West Bay, we help students learn English and develop their French language learning from Kindergarten. We support students' understanding of the multi-cultural mosaic of Canada with diverse celebrations and traditions as a means to better understand their local community.

Culture 4.3: The school identifies in its language policy a variety of physical and virtual resources used to facilitate language development. (0301-04-0300)

Resources that support the policy

At West Bay, we provide access to a variety of resources. With adult support and guidance, this includes:

- Full access to age-appropriate internet sites and databases
- Print resources to foster love of learning across disciplines both fiction and non-fiction
- Print resources that support learning at all age levels and abilities
- Technologies that allow students to communicate with the global world such as Seesaw * Google Suite and District approved sites.
- Technologies that support language development such as Read/Write Google, RAZ Kids, UFLI, and Open-Court
- Teachers, Staff, Parents, and Community Experts



Synergy between policies

The Language Policy connects to our Inclusion policy as we understand it is the school's responsibility to meet children where they are at. The language of the school promotes and acknowledges the diversity of backgrounds, beliefs, and ways of being.

Teachers at West Bay develop a caring language community allowing all students to feel accepted and confident and that they will be supported by others. We want our learning community to feel safe and confident to take risks.