



**CYPRESS PARK**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



## **Language Philosophy and Policy 2010, 2014**

**Updated and Revised by School Staff  
2019**

### **Mission Statement:**

*Cypress Park Primary School strives to develop caring, creative, principled students who apply their skills and knowledge and recognize different perspectives with an open-mind. It is the school's mission to nurture confident and inquiring individuals who are citizens of the world.*

### **Language Profile of Cypress Park:**

**English:** 54.7%

**Mandarin** 23.3%

**Farsi** 12.3%

**Russian, Swedish, Polish, Greek, Afrikans, Japanese, Hindi** 9.5%

### **Language Philosophy**

At Cypress Park we value diversity. 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 Cypress Park. We understand that language is a vehicle for appreciating diversity and that language connects us.

We believe that all students have the ability to achieve their language potential. As a result, it is our responsibility at Cypress Park to meet the students where they are at and to acknowledge that students learn at different rates, at different times and by different means..

Through consistent and early exposure to other languages, one's ability to learn will be more successful. Language is a vehicle to communicate and can take many forms and be done in many places. We believe it is the responsibility of all stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, specialists, and administration to support the language development of all children

## **Support for Translanguaging and Student Language Profiles**

At Cypress Park we work to honour all students' languages. We support students conversing in any language and encourage translanguaging. We do this by encouraging students to:

- Read books in their own language
- Speak in their own language
- Write in their own language (name)
- Translanguage with word substitutions

At Cypress Park we feel it is our responsibility to not only support the language profiles of the student but provide language services to families. We do this by:

- Bringing in translators to help families (SWIS workers)
- Providing IB documents in different languages when available
- Having visual presence of different languages around Cypress Park
- 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 (Report cards, 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 yearly

## **Learning of the host country/regional language and culture**

At Cypress Park we acknowledge that we are on the territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Wa chexw yuu

We strive to learn Indigenous greetings and acknowledge the land in which we learn on. We commit to helping students understand and appreciate Canadian culture and in doing so we recognize that being Canadian celebrates a culture full of diversity. At Cypress Park we strive to help students learn English. We support students to understand some of the cultural norms to help them participate in their local community. We support all students learning French from the age of 4.

## **Resources that support the policy**

At Cypress Park we strive to provide access to a variety of resources.

This includes:

- Full access to age-appropriate internet sites
- 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 Freshgrade, \*Skype, \*Facetime, \*Flipgrid
- Technologies that support language development such as Duolingo, Google Translate, Read/Write Google, RAZ Kids, Words their Way, etc

**\*with adult support and guidance**

The Language Policy connects to our SEN/Inclusion policy as we know it is the school's responsibility to meet the child where they are at. The language of the school promotes and acknowledges the diversity of backgrounds, beliefs, and ways of being. The Language Policy connects with our Assessment Policy through our belief of meeting our students where they are at. Providing students with immediate and meaningful feedback to support their language development. By using formative assessment to understand where a student's language is at we can better develop plans for our learners..

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