

ALEV Language Policy

Language Philosophy:

At ALEV Schools, our mission is to provide students with a truly international education throughout their academic journey. We strive to create a learning environment that nurtures open-mindedness and intercultural understanding, empowering students to grow into responsible and engaged World Citizens.

To support this vision, ALEV Schools have established a comprehensive language policy that ensures students develop into independent and proficient users of German and English, alongside their native language, Turkish. Language instruction is aligned with the proficiency levels defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), promoting multilingual competence and global readiness.

Diversity

The majority of our students are native Turkish speakers. A smaller group of students are bilingual, speaking both Turkish and German at home. This linguistic diversity enriches our school culture and supports our commitment to inclusive, multicultural education.

Language Profile of ALEV Students:

The proportion of students of German origin is approximately 5%. Turkish and German are the languages spoken by these students. All ALEV students learn German as a foreign language from kindergarten onwards. By the end of Year 8, students have completed their middle school education at the A2 or B1 level according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. High school students take exams at the B1-B2–C1 level, and some even at the C2 level. English language education begins in Year 3. Students take the KET/PET/FCE and IELTS exams.

Upon transitioning to high school, every student enrolls in a preparatory class. There are two preparatory classes at high school level: one for students joining from outside ALEV and one for those continuing from ALEV Middle School. The programme for students joining from outside focuses mainly on German, while the programme for ALEV Middle School students focuses mainly on English. The goal for both groups is to ensure that students reach level B1 in German and B2 in English by the time they start year 10.



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International Language Exams in German:

❖ DSD – Deutsches Sprachdiplom (German Language Diploma)

The DSD is a state-approved German language certification offered by the German government. It assesses German proficiency for non-native speakers, typically students. The exams align with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), covering levels from A2 to C1. A DSD II (B2/C1) certificate is often required for admission to German universities without needing additional language tests.

DSD (Deutsches Sprachdiplom) students learn German between the ages of 14 and 19, take the exam every year, and demonstrate their knowledge of German. This exam system allows students to apply to universities or university preparatory schools in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The German Ministry of Culture recognizes DSD exams as the only school exam that tests German as a foreign language.

DSD exams are held in more than 60 countries worldwide. The DSD II (C1 / B2) exam measures and certifies the language skills required for university education.

Every year, students from our school take this exam and achieve successful results. The exam consists of four parts at both levels: written expression, reading comprehension, listening comprehension, and oral exam. All parts of the exam are conducted at our school. While the exam dates are announced worldwide from Germany, the exam questions are prepared there and sent to the embassies and consulates affiliated with the school on the exam date. While the oral exam is conducted by teachers educated in Germany, the oral exam is conducted by a teacher with civil servant status in Germany in the presence of the chair of the Özel ALEV High School exam board. Our German teachers are required to attend annual exam seminars.

Students' preparation for the German exam begins in the preparatory class. Here, they acquire the basic knowledge, grammar, and vocabulary necessary to pass the German exams, do the relevant work, and take the A2 level German exam in mid-April to measure and document their knowledge.

Since 2007-2008, the DSD I and DSD II exams have been administered at Özel ALEV High School. These exams cover levels B1 / A2 and C1 / B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

❖ ÖSD – Österreichisches Sprachdiplom Deutsch (Austrian German Language Diploma)

The ÖSD is Austria's official system for certifying German language skills. It's internationally recognized in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and beyond. The exams range from A1 to C2, and test listening, reading, writing, and speaking. ÖSD certificates are useful for academic, professional, and immigration purposes, especially in German-speaking countries.

Students take the DSD I B1 / A2 exam in 9th grade and the ÖSD B2 exam in 10th grade, while preparing for the DSD II C1 / B2 exam format until 12th grade. Additionally, students who wish to do so can take the ÖSD B1 or B2 exam in 10th grade and the ÖSD C1 exam in 12th grade.



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International Language Exams in English:

To promote an international perspective and high-level English education, students are encouraged to take the PET exam in preparatory and the 9th grades, the FCE exam in 10th grade, and the IELTS exam towards the end of 11th grade.

❖ **PET – Preliminary English Test** Level: B1 (Intermediate)

PET is an English language exam that proves you can use everyday written and spoken English at an intermediate level. It's suitable for work, travel, and basic academic purposes.

❖ **FCE – First Certificate in English** Level: B2 (Upper Intermediate)

FCE shows you can communicate effectively in English in real-life situations. It's widely accepted by employers and educational institutions as proof of solid language skills.

❖ **IELTS – International English Language Testing System** Level: A1 to C2 (Beginner to Advanced)

IELTS is a globally recognized test for English proficiency. It's used for university admissions, job applications, and immigration in countries like the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. It includes four sections: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

Students are provided with IELTS courses as part of the curriculum, and in these courses, they are informed about the requirements of the IELTS exam components before taking the actual IELTS exam.

Lessons are taught using textbooks that comply with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages at all levels, as well as materials specific to ALEV.

International Language Exams in Each Grade:

At ALEV, students prepare for international language exams at all levels under the guidance of subject teachers. As our school is an official exam center, all students take these internationally recognized exams on our campus. All language teachers include exam preparation in their lessons.

	DSD A2	DSD I	DSD II	ÖSD B1	ÖSD B2	PET	FCE	IELTS Academic
Prep	X					X		
9		X				X		
10		X		X	X		X	
11					X			X
12			X		X			X



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Expected Levels:

At ALEV, students are expected to make steady progress in both German and English each year. The following chart shows the target language proficiency levels at the end of each grade, based on the CEFR standards.

- End of prep class: German A2, English B1
- End of grade 9: German B1, English B1+/B2
- End of grade 10: German B2, English B2+/C1
- End of grade 11: German B2+, English C1
- End of grade 12: German C1, English C1 (some students reach C2 level)

Admission Policy Concerning Languages:

For admission to the IB DP, students are expected to reach the language level of B1+ in German and English according to the Common European Framework at the end of grade 10 and have at least 70 points in Turkish Literature in their second term reports.

According to the Ministry of National Education's International Diploma and Certificate Programmes guidelines, students must also have a German and English language certificate by the end of 10th grade to be eligible for the IB Diploma Programme.

It is recommended that the specified language proficiency be documented with internationally recognized exam certificates within the scope of the CEFR. The following exams are accepted as valid in this context:

- ❖ For English: Cambridge PET and FCE, TOEFL, IELTS
- ❖ For German: DSD-I, ÖSD B1, TELC B1, Goethe Institut Fit in Deutsch B1 or Zertifikat B1

The language courses at our school prepare students for these exams, which are administered at our school. When students acquire the language skills appropriate to their level, they can succeed in the international language exams administered at the school and transition to the IB Diploma Programme without difficulty. The language programme implemented by the school starting in the preparatory year and the international language exams administered enable students to transition to the IB Diploma Programme.

To meet the language requirements for transitioning to the IB Programme, students can take the DSD-I, ÖSD B1, and PET exams within the school. If a student takes these exams at school and fails, they can also take exams administered outside the school to demonstrate language proficiency (e.g., TELC B1).



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Language of Instruction:

Starting in 2025, 9th grade students will take science and maths classes in English. This is planned to help students develop their English literacy skills in these subjects and better prepare for the IB Diploma Programme. Science and mathematics courses will be gradually taught in English in the 9th grade in 2025 and in the 10th grade in 2026.

As in previous years, students will take Turkish Language and Literature and culture courses in Turkish in 9th and 10th grades.

In preparation for the Diploma Programme, where subjects will be taught in English and German, students in grades 9 and 10 will encounter English and German course materials in all relevant subjects, as in previous years, i.e., before the DP years. Teachers plan their lessons in collaboration with DP teachers.

The school programme in these grades also focuses on international projects, global issues, sustainable development goals, and teaching across different curriculum disciplines.

Language A – Mother Tongue Programme: (Turkish A)

ALEV Schools offer Turkish as Language A. Students learn foreign languages more quickly and effectively if they maintain and develop their proficiency in their native language, because many skills acquired in the first language can be transferred to the second language.

At ALEV Schools, we believe that Turkish, German, and English are interconnected and mutually reinforcing. We see that students, who understand their native language well, are more successful in foreign language classes and even in Maths and Science classes. For this reason, starting from the preparatory class, emphasis is frequently placed on students' abilities to read, understand, analyse, and present texts in their native language, and students' presentation and writing skills are evaluated in the projects they prepare. In addition, students take exams covering the four skills (reading comprehension, listening, speaking, and writing) in their Turkish classes in grades 9 and 10.



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Language B: (German & English)

In addition to their mother tongue, students at ALEV learn two foreign languages during their education. They are offered German and English. Students don't learn but nearly acquire German as the programme starts in kindergarten. In lower and upper secondary students develop their language and literacy competence as well as their intercultural competence. The language used in class is either German or English.

ALEV Schools adopt foreign language teaching approaches that embrace intercultural understanding, global contexts, and holistic learning. Students' reading comprehension, writing, speaking, and listening skills in both foreign languages are frequently assessed through both process and outcome evaluations. Teachers provide feedback to students regarding these assessments.

Teachers evaluate and improve the in-class resources and materials they have used at the end of each year. Teachers select materials that are appropriate for the exam that students will take at that grade level as resources.

To improve students' performance in Science and Mathematics courses taken in English within the IB Diploma Programme, it is planned that 9th grade students will take Science and Mathematics courses in English starting in 2025. Teachers have made preparations in 2024 for this transition.

Language Teaching and Learning

Students at ALEV are considered as individuals who have different learning styles. Teaching methods and techniques are chosen accordingly so that every student's needs are met.

Grammar is taught inductively--rules are generalized from the practice and experience with the target language. The culture associated with the target language is also taught inductively.

Culture is considered an important aspect of learning the language. The classroom is devoted primarily to activities that foster acquisition of L2. Learning activities involving practice and drill are also assigned as homework. As all classes are made up of mixed-ability classes, differentiated tasks are given to the students which lead them to learn the subjects in accordance with their learning styles.

Teachers prepare classroom activities and assignments for students with different learning styles using various resources. In addition to IB textbooks, our teachers frequently use Kognity and other web resources for language teaching. Furthermore, to make lessons more interactive and engaging, our teachers actively use artificial intelligence tools both in class and for assignments.



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Collaborative teaching and learning methods are effectively implemented, particularly in language courses at the middle school and high school levels. The ALEV School Language Department promotes interdisciplinary interaction through cross-curricular projects that support this approach. At the beginning of each academic year, all teachers hold meetings within the framework of global contexts and current issues to establish a common vision before preparing their unit plans. As a result of these meetings, an interdisciplinary work plan is developed, ensuring that students gain a multifaceted perspective on the same themes across different subjects.

Communicating the Language Policy

The language policy is introduced to all stakeholders of the IB DP through parent-teacher meetings, class presentations, and staff meetings. The Language Policy of ALEV Schools is announced at parent and student meetings. The Language Policy of ALEV Schools is shared with the school community via ALEV SharePoint and Microsoft TEAMS and is also published on the school's official website. All stakeholders can access this policy via ALEV SharePoint, Microsoft TEAMS folders, and the school's official website.

Policy Revision

The policy is periodically reviewed by LPT, head of departments, language departments teachers. HoDs work on the document before the revision, collect other teachers' thoughts and comments regarding the policy. The PLT, head of departments and language departments teachers collaboratively work on "ALEV School's Language Policy" every June and revise it every August, when necessary. All attendees share thoughts/comments regarding the school language policy during the collaborative meeting.

Language Policy Team (*this team was announced by the pedagogical leadership team among volunteering teachers and has established the policies by getting feedback from the below mentioned references*):

PLT (Principal, Vice Principals, IB Coordinator, Counselor), Head of Departments, Turkish – German – English Language Departments

Last updated: September 2024

Approved: August 2025



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References:

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