

Leigh UTC Dartford



Leigh UTC
Dartford

MYP Language Policy

Approved by:	Mr Kevin Watson
Last reviewed on	01/12/25
Next review due by	01/12/26

Introduction

Leigh UTC Dartford has developed this language policy to outline the philosophy and aims of language teaching and learning. Included in this policy is the Leigh UTC Dartford's provision for second-language teaching and mother-tongue language support that meet the needs of students and reflect the principles of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme.

Philosophy and Aims

At the Leigh UTC Dartford we believe that language is the foundation of all learning; it is the primary means of communication and is fundamental to lifelong learning. In order for students to be successful, they must be able to use language appropriately, accurately and confidently both orally and in writing in a variety of contexts for a wide range of purposes. We seek to ensure that the study of languages (English, Modern Foreign Languages and Mother tongues) develops effective communication, assists personal growth, strengthens each student's awareness of his or her cultural identity, and promotes international understanding.

We acknowledge that the development of a strong foundation in one's home language(s) is essential for cognitive growth, social belonging, and successful acquisition of additional languages. A secure foundation in one's first language enhances literacy, critical thinking, and academic achievement across disciplines.

For students to inquire and develop critical thinking skills, they must be able to use language proficiently in all forms of communication. Language enables students to build social skills and access all areas of the curriculum through their acquisition of knowledge and ability to reflect on their learning. Language acquisition is a lifelong process; therefore, all teachers are considered to be teachers of Language.

The vision for the Leigh UTC Dartford is to 'secure high aspirations for young people through the provision of a comprehensive 'world-class' high-quality technical education' by:

- challenging all students and teachers to become compassionate and active members of our global community
- building effective partnerships through intercultural and social interactions
- ensuring consistent approaches to develop lifelong learners.

Therefore, we understand that students must recognise the importance of language learning and we would like them to be able to recognise the culture and skills related to learning a second language. Accordingly, language learning is not limited only to the acquisition of a second language, but also includes the importance of cultural understanding and sensitivity, and fosters international understanding.

Language Profile of The Leigh UTC

The majority of students at the Leigh UTC Dartford speak English which is their mother tongue. For 7% of Leigh UTC Dartford's students English is an additional language (EAL).

Students for whom English is not their first language are given opportunities to celebrate their home language and share their home culture. If possible, these students will have the opportunity to gain a qualification in their first language.

English is the language of instruction at the Leigh UTC Dartford and English, as a subject, is taught through language in years 7-11 additionally through literature from Year 10 to Year 11 (KS4).

English language and literature is taught by subject specialists. However, the Leigh UTC Dartford recognises that language is central to all learning and therefore all teachers are, in practice, language teachers with responsibility in facilitating communication. It is therefore expected that:

- teachers are accountable for teaching the vocabulary of their respective subject – the teacher is the provider of the common language for facilitating learning in that subject;
- teachers are expected to allow students to make progress in reading and writing across each area of the curriculum;
- annual professional development is provided for all staff on the development and promotion of literacy across the curriculum.
- PD mentors lead on Sparx Reader time which is built into form time once a week.

Additional Language Acquisition at The Leigh UTC

With the start of the Middle Years Programme all students in KS3 will learn German. Within this the key concepts will be Communication, Connections, Creativity and Culture.

All students will learn the German language as part of Language Acquisition within the MYP (Middle Years Programme). German will be taught to all students who will learn about cultural diversity and cultivate internationalism alongside learning basic German speaking. The provision of the second language for MYP students will be reviewed annually and additional languages may be offered to meet the needs, interests and aspirations of students and teachers within the UTC. Students have access to [Languagenut](#) as a digital platform for developing their German.

The Leigh UTC Dartford celebrates the diversity of languages across the world. Each subject actively promotes International Mindedness through the curriculum and a number of different events are celebrated each year, such as International Day of Languages and Black History Month. Here at the Leigh UTC Dartford, we also have links with a German school, Das Geschwister-Scholl-Gymnasium. The Leigh UTC Dartford runs an annual trip to Cologne, where the students have the opportunity to visit our German link school, and they also bring students to visit us annually at the Leigh UTC Dartford. The Leigh UTC Dartford has also established links and are partnered with a German business, SEM.

The involvement of parents in language development is important to the Leigh UTC Dartford and we work hard to engage and include parents and carers in supporting their child through involvement in a variety of programmes in and beyond school.

Students are encouraged to take formal examinations in their mother-tongue/other spoken languages and provided with support where possible. This is delivered one-to-one or in small groups.

The following link provides additional classroom strategies from the Bell Foundation that can

be used across the academy:

<https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/resources/great-ideas/>

Responsibilities and Roles:

The taught language curriculum	DoL for English; literacy lead, class teachers
Placement in language classes	COL for Language Acquisition
Identification for EAL support	DOL Inclusion
Profiling of new admissions	DOL Inclusion and Assistant SENCOs
Review of language policy	Senior Leadership Team, MYP Coordinators

Learning Resource Center (LRC)

The LRC has a vital role in the promotion of literacy and therefore the development of students' language. The LRC holdings shall include texts in all of those languages that are offered in the curriculum and LRC development will take all languages into consideration. The Leigh UTC Dartford is also interested in developing a more extensive range of resources for second languages. Subscriptions to publications such as 'The Day' supports students' opportunities to access news articles and wider reading in their mother tongue as well as supporting parents with this opportunity to also access these materials. More information can be found at <https://theday.co.uk/>