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**Language Policy at Kristiansand katedralskole Gimle (KKG)**

The school community of Kristiansand katedralskole Gimle (KKG) consists of more than 1800 students and teachers, and the majority speaks Norwegian as their home language. Norwegian is the primary working language at the school, and there are two varieties of Norwegian, Danish-Norwegian and New Norwegian, that the students in the Norwegian system study and understand.

However, at KKG there are students and teachers from about 50 different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and the school promotes the importance of language learning and appreciates good language skills in both home languages and foreign languages of our students. We believe that the learning of foreign languages will lead to knowledge and respect for different cultures and promotes internationalism and multicultural understanding. It will also give them a better awareness and knowledge of their own language and culture, which is important in a globalized world.

In the IB Diploma Programme most of the students are Norwegian (have Norwegian as their home language), but about 15 % are of foreign origin. The teaching and working language is English, except in the course Norwegian A Language and Literature and the courses in Language B and ab initio. The IB teachers all share a responsibility for the development of the students’ English (and Norwegian) skills and place importance on language learning in their subjects and in general. The IB teachers regularly attend IB workshops given in English as a part of their professional development.

The home language is important in promoting personal identity and maintaining cultural heritage. KKG urges the students to study their own home language and prepares all students to be able to study at a Norwegian university. Foreign students have to do Norwegian B HL as one of their languages so they are able to fulfill the requirements for university admission in Norway.

Students applying for higher education after 2020 must have at least Norwegian B HL (<https://www.samordnaopptak.no/info/utenlandsk_utdanning/ib/sprakkrav_uten_hoyere_utdanning/>). Students who have no knowledge of Norwegian before they start the IB, are urged to attend Norwegian courses outside school on their own expense.

The school also offer English B HL, French B HL/SL, German B HL/SL, Spanish B HL/SL and Chinese ab initio. For the languages B (Norwegian and English not included), the students study in a class with students from the Norwegian part of the school 4 lessons a week, and they have one IB-lesson. For Chinese ab initio, the students participate in an online course delivered by Pamoja Education. In addition to the online course, the school provides a weekly IB-session with a Chinese teacher.

KKG have exchange programmes with schools in France, Germany, Spain and Nicaragua and it gives the students an opportunity to practice their language B with native speakers of the language. It also gives them a chance to improve their knowledge of culture and civilization.

KKG also offers self-taught language A SL in Swedish, Danish, Spanish, French and German. The Norwegian A teachers are able to supervise Danish and Swedish, and the language B teachers can supervise their language as self-taught.

Our library has reference books and novels in English, Norwegian and all the languages that are taught in the IB and covers the syllabus of the IB subjects taught at KKG. There is a large stock of films, audio books and free access to online encyclopaedias. The library has enough appropriate materials to support the implementation of the DP, and the librarians update the materials every year. The school also provides the students with their personal laptop and a wireless broadband system which enables them to use all sorts of digital resources available.

KKG has an ongoing inclusion project on adapted training for student with minority languages (Inkluderingsprosjektet). Tests in Mathematics are for example copyedited.

This is led by Statped (statlig pedagogisk teneste – state educational service) and is initiated by Agder county and special education academic community (Spesialpedagogisk fagmiljø). The focus is to customize teaching of minority language students into the ordinary teaching in class, and all the teachers must be aware that language is important.

Kristiansand 24.03.2020

Vibeke Lauritsen

IBDP Coordinator

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