



**KRISTIANSAND
KATEDRALSKOLE
GIMLE**

Language Policy at Kristiansand katedralskole Gimle (KKG)

The school community of Kristiansand katedralskole Gimle (KKG) consists of more than 1600 students and teachers, and the majority speaks Norwegian as their mother tongue. 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 mother tongues 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, but about 15 % are of foreign origin. The teaching and working language is English, except 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 skills and places 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 mother tongue is important in promoting personal identity and maintaining cultural heritage. KKG urges the students to study their own mother tongue, and prepares all students to be able to study at a Norwegian university. Most Norwegian students do both English and Norwegian A Language and Literature HL or SL, but it is possible for them to do either English or Norwegian A Language and Literature HL or SL and a Language B. Foreign students have to do Norwegian B as one of their languages so they are able to fulfill the requirements for university admission in Norway.

The school offers Norwegian and English A Language and Literature, but we do not offer English B. The IB Diploma Programme students then need to have good English skills before they start the IB. The students are also able to get tutorial lessons, and the language A teachers offer one tutorial lesson a week. Most students do both English A and Norwegian A Language and Literature which have a lot in common.

We also offer Norwegian B, French B, German B, Spanish B and Chinese ab initio. About 1/3 of the IB students choose a language B (Norwegian B not included). For the languages B (Norwegian 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 they also get lessons in writing Chinese in addition to the IB lessons. Those students who have no knowledge of Norwegian before they start the IB, are urged to attend private Norwegian courses outside school.

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.

Folkestyre - kompetanse - samarbeid

KKG also offers selftaught 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.

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 DVDs and free access to online encyclopedias. The library has enough appropriate materials to support the implementation of the DP, and the librarians up date 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.

Kristiansand 15.9.15

Vibeke Lauritsen
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