



Language Policy at Kristiansand katedralskole Gimle (KKG)

The school community of Kristiansand katedralskole Gimle (KKG) consists of more than 1800 students and teachers all together, 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 the students a better awareness and knowledge of their own language and culture, which is important in a globalized world. KKG also organizes a language week every year.

In the IB Diploma Programme most of the students are Norwegian (have Norwegian as their home language), and about 25 % 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. To further align with IB's principles, KKG could explicitly reference IB documents, such as the *IB Language Policy Guidelines* or *Learning Diversity and Inclusion in IB Programmes*, which provide comprehensive frameworks for promoting multilingualism, inclusion, and equitable language support.

The native language is important in promoting personal identity and maintaining cultural heritage. KKG urges the students to study their own home language, and we prepare 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 must pass minimum Norwegian B HL (https://www.samordnaopptak.no/info/utenlandsk_utdanning/ib/opptakskrav/). Students without prior knowledge of Norwegian are strongly encouraged to take Norwegian courses outside of school at their own expense both before starting the IB programme and during the programme.

The school also offers English B HL, and dependent on applicants, 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 attend in a class with students from the Norwegian system of the school four 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 has exchange and/or study programmes with schools in France, Germany, Spain and Ireland, and it gives the students an opportunity to practice their language B with native speakers of the language. It also gives them with 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 in addition to all the languages that are taught in the IB, the library sources cover the syllabus of the IB subjects taught at KKG. There is a large collection 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 continuously. 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. The students are also allowed to use the library at the university nearby, University of Agder.

KKG hosts the final in the National Language Competition. ILC is Scandinavia's largest language competition for schools, and is a language and culture competition aimed at students in lower and upper secondary schools. Students can compete in Spanish, French, German, and English <https://ilcompetition.com/>.

In June 2016, KKG became the first upper secondary school in Agder to be certified as a Dyslexia-Friendly School <https://dysleksinorge.no/dysleksivennlig-skole/>:

- fosters an inclusive and accepting environment
- systematically assesses all students' reading skills
- maintains a registration system to monitor students' reading abilities
- follows up on reading development for students who need support
- uses varied teaching methods and technology tailored to the students' challenges
- ensures that teachers have the necessary competence to provide adapted instruction for students with reading and writing difficulties, language challenges, and math difficulties

In 2024 KKG started a project called *Skriverommet*. It gives students courses and workshops focused on writing and tutoring skills:

- General academic writing
- Subject-specific writing
- Guiding students in writing different text types across all subjects
- Group tutoring
- Individual tutoring
- Advising on AI use in writing instruction

To further enhance its relevance, Skriverommet could explore how AI tools might support multilingual learners by offering features such as real-time translation, adaptive vocabulary exercises, or grammar suggestions tailored to second-language learners. Such applications of AI could align with KKG's commitment to inclusion and the development of language skills for all students.

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.

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