Porsgrunn Sep. 2020

Language Policy
Porsgrunn Videregående Skole 2020

Porsgrunn Vidergående Skole appreciates and promotes the importance of good language skills in both the student's mother tongue and in foreign languages.

The primary working language of the school is Norwegian. The majority of the school community has Norwegian as their mother tongue. There are two Norwegian languages Bokmål and Nynorsk. The majority of the students have Bokmål as their first Norwegian language. Text books are produced in both languages. All students in the Norwegian system must study both languages but if they have a different mother tongue they are only required to take the examination in the language of their choice. All students understand both languages. Bokmål is the predominant language of the district. English is the working language of the IB Diploma Programme.

• Porsgrunn VGS promotes within the IB programme every student to study a language A, their own mother tongue. A language A teacher is appointed as a supervisor for self-taught candidates and as far as possible a language specialist helps in reading essays and advising on language issues.

• Porsgrunn VGS offers as taught language A; Norwegian and English. Both Literature and Language & Literature courses are offered. Students can choose either HL or SL in both courses.

• Porsgrunn VGS offers English, Norwegian, and Spanish as B languages. In addition we also offer Spanish ab initio.

• Porsgrunn VGS encourages all students to learn Norwegian, the language of the country. The majority of students will have Norwegian as part of their diploma. This is a requirement for Norwegian universities and also a requirement if students are seeking financial help from the state, for further studies. This rule applies regardless of whether a student will study in Norway or not.

• We do not offer Norwegian ab initio so new learners of the language are recommended to do our Pre IB programme with special teaching in the first year of their IB programme to bring them up to a standard, whereby they can join the regular class.

• Students who have challenges in English are given extra English classes in the Pre IB programme to enable them to participate fully in the classes of the IB Diploma.

• Students are required to have a certain proficiency in English before starting the diploma programme but are not required to be totally fluent in the language.

• Porsgrunn VGS has a well stocked library with reference books in both English and Norwegian. We also have the possibility to borrow books from other libraries when needed. Novels are to be found in a variety of languages as well as magazines and newspapers

• All our IB teachers are aware that they are also language teachers