ENGLISH SPEAKING POLICY

Aim
To improve the extent of the speaking of English on the school premises while giving students the opportunity to converse in mother tongue in certain areas at certain times.

Rationale
- We are an International School comprising students and teachers of approx 25 different nationalities teaching an English curriculum.
- Parents have decided to send their children to BIST partially because of our English Speaking Policy. They have also withdrawn their children when implementation of the Policy has met with challenges. English speaking is therefore a potential USP for BIST.
- All internal and external examinations (except those in MFLs) are in English.
- Parents rely on the School to employ all reasonable means to ensure their children leave the School with an excellent command of English.
- In an international community, a lingua franca represents a cohesive force.
- Immersion (as far as is reasonable and possible) is the most effective method of developing language skills.
- The development of English language skills is the direct responsibility of every member of staff.

Policy Statement
English will be spoken by all staff and students in all areas of the school throughout the school day from 7.30am to 4pm (including breaks). All staff will use English, where practically possible, in office and other support areas, and especially in the presence of students and teaching staff.

In addition, the ground floor of the Boarding Houses will be English Speaking Zones at all times. Boarding students should be encouraged to use English at all times and always where mixed language groups are present.

EXCEPTIONS:
- Foreign language classrooms
- Talking to prospective parents/visitors
- Emergency situations/health issues with the School Nurse.
The 'Red Card' System

How it works

Students who are heard speaking a language other than English will be issued verbally with a “Red Card” by teachers. This means a 20 minute detention.

*Teachers will use their professional judgment and discretion in issuing red cards. If, for example, the student is new to the school and their English is weak, they may be given encouragement to speak English and given a warning.*

If, however, they have been here a long time and can speak perfectly good English, but are walking around speaking their own language, they will be given a Red Card.

The teacher issuing the Red Card will record names of those students on a clipboard in the SIC.

If the Red Card is issued before 12:30 the English speaking detention will be served that day. After 12:30, the following day.

A member of SMT will be on duty and will oversee the detention in Room 201. He/she will pick up the clipboard/ names from the SIC and cross off the students name once the detention is complete. Names of any students not turning up will be passed on to KS Coordinators to follow up.

*Primary students will follow an amended version of the above but their names are still recorded on a clipboard by both primary and secondary teachers. Primary teachers are also expected to record names of secondary students as appropriate.*

Rewards Aspect

A tally of how many strikes each tutor group has received can be made and a fortnightly award of the English Speaking Cup will be made to the tutor group with the least strikes. At the end of each half term the tutor group with the least strikes will receive a treat. This will be arranged by the form tutor and could include an end of year trip to Dream world

*Key Stage coordinators* will record red cards in a folder and chase up any students not attending detention. Also they will work out the numbers of red cards per form fortnightly so that the trophy can be awarded at assembly.

Any student receiving 3 Red Cards or more in a half term will be spoken to by KS Coordinator. 5 Red Cards or more – letter home

Next Review of Policy—July 2014