

# Utsuho Academy Language Policy

## 1. Philosophy Regarding Language

Utsuh Academy (hereinafter referred to as “this school”) views language as both a “tool for learning” and a “source of multicultural understanding, self-awareness, self-expression, and critical thinking.” Through the fluent use of language, we aim for children to connect with the world, their community, and nature through diverse languages, deepen their own thinking, and cultivate the ability to co-create with others. This philosophy embodies the principle that “all teachers bear responsibility for language education.”

## 2. Language Profile

- **Language of Instruction:** Japanese serves as the foundation and the primary language for inquiry-based learning.
- **Additional Language:** Foreign languages are studied intensively, with instruction in English and bilingual formats for certain subjects.
- **Mother Tongue:** Children's diverse linguistic backgrounds are respected, and support is provided to maintain mother tongue use as needed.

## 3. Language Practices

- **Integration with Inquiry-Based Learning:** Language education integrates with PYP inquiry themes, promoting real-life language use.
- **Balance of Four Skills:** Develops listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in a balanced manner. Also emphasizes understanding the potential aggressiveness inherent in language and media literacy.
- **Bilingual Education:** In addition to English classes, some subjects are taught in English and bilingually, fostering the ability to thrive in multilingual environments.
- **Individualized Support in Language Education:** For children facing challenges in acquiring English or Japanese, individualized educational support plans or individualized learning support plans are developed in consultation with the child and their parents to support their learning.

## 4. Roles and Responsibilities of Staff

- **Teachers:** All teachers bear responsibility for language education and support children's language development.

- **Language Coordinator:** A Language Coordinator oversees the planning, implementation, and evaluation of language education and supports staff training.
- **Parents/Guardians:** Create a supportive language environment at home and collaborate with the school to support children's language development.

## 5. Language Assessment

Language assessment tracks children's language ability development and informs instructional improvements. Assessment methods include teacher observation, portfolios, self-assessment, and performance tasks. Assessments are conducted fairly and diversely, considering children's linguistic backgrounds and proficiency levels.

## 6. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually by a committee comprising representatives of faculty, parents, and children, and revised as necessary. It also references the latest trends in educational research to continuously improve language education.

Established: August 20, 2025