

## **Community Languages Policy**

### **Purpose**

This policy aims to provide guidelines for students who wish to take exams in community languages.

### **1. Introduction**

At the BRIT School we recognise the importance of linguistic diversity and encourage students to maintain and develop proficiency in their community languages. This policy outlines the procedure and conditions under which students may take GCSE Examinations in languages other than English.

### **2. Definition of Community Languages**

Community languages are defined as any language spoken at home or in the community that is not English. Examples include but are not limited to: Spanish, French, Polish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Hindi, Urdu.

### **3. Eligibility Criteria**

Students wishing to take exams in community languages must meet the following criteria:

- Proficiency: The student should demonstrate proficiency in the community language at a level that enables them to take an exam.
- Commitment: To study independently
- Course Availability: The school must offer an approved external examination in the requested language.
- Approval Process: Students must apply to take an exam in a community language by submitting a formal request to the school's Exams Team. This request should be supported by a parent/carers along with evidence of the student's proficiency.

### **4. Specifications**

The BRIT School is able to offer community language exams from AQA and Edexcel Awarding Bodies only.

Exams are made up of 4 separate components:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening

The candidates will be assessed on each of these, on different days.

The deadline for the exam entries is February. The speaking component is scheduled to take place first, between the end of March and the beginning of April. The dates for the other 3 components are published by the various exam boards - candidates will be made aware of these dates as soon as they are published.

## **Entry**

The school will cover the cost of the examination entry and all other associated costs. If a student is absent from an exam, without good reason, then these costs will be forwarded to the student.

Please be aware that we cannot guarantee being able to facilitate the spoken element of all community language exams. In this situation the exams officer will let all stakeholders know. Parents/Carers can decide whether their child will forego this exam (a good grade can still be obtained without it) or if they can find a suitable person to carry out the exam or withdraw their child from the exam. The decision to withdraw must be taken by the end of April ahead of the JCQ Deadline.

The school will make reasonable accommodations to ensure that students have the appropriate environment, resources, and support to take community language exams, including extra time or access arrangements where applicable.

Please note that we cannot facilitate any mock exam except for GCSE French and Spanish and the school cannot take part in any tuition or teaching for these subjects.

## **5. Links for Awarding Body**

Edexcel - [qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/languages.html](https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/languages.html)

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects>

## **6. Monitoring and Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team to ensure its effectiveness and updated as necessary.

## **7. Contact Information**

For any queries or further information regarding this policy, please contact:

Ray Oudkerk, Vice Principal or Katie Findlater, Director of Data and Exams