

SOTA MOTHER TONGUE LANGUAGE POLICY

1. The Singapore Bilingual Policy requires all our students (including Eurasian students, students of mixed parentage and international students) to offer a Mother Tongue Language (MTL), in addition to English. The three official MTLs are Chinese, Malay and Tamil.
2. Under the Bilingual Policy, it is compulsory for SOTA students to attain minimum '4' points in **IB Language B (Standard or Higher Level)** to fulfil the MTL requirement for admission to the local autonomous universities.

Applying for Non-MTL/NTIL

3. Students may seek MOE's approval through the school to offer Chinese/Malay/Tamil as non-MTL (i.e. not the student's default MTL based on ethnicity) or to offer a Non-Tamil Indian Language (NTIL: Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu).
4. Students who have obtained approval at primary level are not required to reapply. They must continue to offer the approved non-MTL or NTIL at secondary or pre-tertiary levels.
5. NTIL students (except for Hindi) are required to attend lessons with NTIL community groups (CG: Bangla Language and Literary Society, Bangladesh Language and Cultural Foundation, Singapore Gujarati School Limited, DAV Hindi School, The Hindi Society Singapore, Singapore Sikh Education Foundation, Urdu Development Society Singapore). It is compulsory to sit for examinations set by the Board for the Teaching and Testing of South Asian Languages (BTTASAL). The MOE-approved subject will be considered as a MTL subject, and assessment grades will be taken as part of our promotion criteria from Years 1 to 4.

Applying for Asian/Foreign Language (AsL/FL) as MTL-in-lieu

6. A student whose Mother Tongue is an Asian Language (AsL: Arabic, Burmese and Thai) or a Foreign Language (FL: French, German and Japanese) can seek approval from the Ministry of Education (MOE) through the school to offer an AsL/FL as MTL-in-lieu.
7. Students granted approval at the primary level must continue learning the language at secondary and pre-tertiary levels. Upon admission to Year 1 in SOTA, a new application will be submitted to MOE through the school for the students to be on the MOELC waiting list.
8. These students will need to arrange for private study and provide evidence to the school that they are receiving regular instruction from a private centre or tutor. For French-in-lieu, German-in-lieu and Japanese-in-lieu, students may be admitted to the MOE Language Centre (MOELC) subject to availability of vacancies.

MTL to be taken in SOTA

9. Under IB guidelines, a candidate must study an additional language to be awarded an IB Diploma. SOTA offers IB Language B Chinese (Standard or Higher Level), Malay (Standard Level), Tamil (Standard Level) and Hindi (Standard Level) for most students. A small group of students will offer Language Ab Initio (Standard Level) if they were exempted from MTL/offering MTL-in-lieu.

10. For students who are taking an MOE Language-in-lieu subject, they will need to offer MTL subjects as shown in Table 1.1:

Table 1.1

Year of Study	Students offering Language In-lieu (including Asian/ Foreign Language and Non-Tamil Indian Languages)	
	Outside SOTA curriculum hours	Within SOTA
Year 1	Attend classes at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private school/tuition with assessments at MOELC, or • NTIL Community Group with assessments set by BTTSAL outside school curriculum to prepare for GCE 'O' and 'A' Level examination at the end of Year 4 and 5 respectively.	Self-study / Cultural Programme (with supervision)
Year 2		
Year 3		
Year 4		Chinese Foundation Programme (leading to Chinese Ab initio) #Self-study for students who will be offering Spanish/French Ab Initio or Self-taught Language A: Literature in Year 5-6.
Year 5		International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) :
Year 6	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language ab initio SL (Chinese, *French and *Spanish only) • Spanish B SL * • Self-taught language A: literature *Online courses, additional charges apply.

11. To fulfil the MTL requirement for admission to the local autonomous universities, students offering MTL-in-lieu are required to attain a minimum 'S' grade in the GCE 'A' Level H1 Mother Tongue Examination.

MTL Exemption

12. MTL exemption may only be considered on a case-by-case basis and approval can only be given by MOE.

13. Students who have been granted MTL exemption from primary level are not required to submit a re-application. However, upon admission into SOTA, a copy of the letter of approval must be submitted to the school for verification.

14. For students who had received exemption from MTL by MOE, their progression in MTL will be as shown in Table 1.2:

Table 1.2

Year of Study	Students who are exempted from MTL (with approval from MOE)
Year 1	Self-study / Cultural Programme (with supervision)
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	Chinese Foundation Programme (leading to Chinese Ab initio)
Year 5	International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Language ab initio SL (Chinese, *French and *Spanish only) ● Spanish B SL* ● Self-taught language A: literature *Online courses, additional charges apply
Year 6	

15. No student is allowed to be exempted from MTL unless written approval has been obtained from MOE.

16. Students who are exempted from MTL will be deemed to have met the requirements for admission to local autonomous universities. **To be awarded the IB Diploma, they will still need to offer the subjects listed in Table 1.2.**

Admission to Local Universities

17. Local universities may admit students who are unable to fulfil the MTL or MTL-in- lieu requirements for admission to local universities but satisfy all other requirements, at their discretion, on a provisional basis. During the course of undergraduate study, they will be required to attend the MTL courses conducted by the university or attain the minimum requirements as a private candidate before they are allowed to graduate.

18. Students are to refer to the admission criteria of each university for the details of the requirements.