International House Manchester

TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

CLASS SYLLABUSES AT IH MANCHESTER ARE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CORE BELIEFS:

- Learning a language happens best through real communication.
- Learning happens best when classes are learning-centred with a focus on learners' interests, wants and needs.
- Learning a language requires the noticing of natural, high-frequency, multi-word lexical units.
- Learning a language means not only knowing it but being able to use it when it is needed.
- Learning is a two-way process, and learners' feedback should be listened to, reflected on, and acted upon.
- Classes should help students become independent learners, so they have the skills to continue to improve after they have left the school.

IN LIGHT OF THE BELIEFS ABOVE, IN CLASSROOMS AT INTERNATIONAL HOUSE MANCHESTER, TEACHERS:

- Create an environment where everyone can study well and focus on learning and where everyone is treated respectfully.
- Understand individual needs when planning and teaching lessons. They consider each student's personality, motivation, culture, work needs, exam goals, and other requirements.
- Set clear aims and goals for each class based on what the group needs. They share these with students at the start of the class, so students understand the purpose of the lesson and can see their progress. During class, they check if the aims were met.
- Make sure lessons follow a plan and build on each other over time. Teachers share the week's lesson plan with students and build on what students already know.
- Teach language in real situations with clear examples from everyday life. . Students should understand grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, but most importantly, they should know how to use them.
- Use only English in class (unless there is a good reason to use the students' first language).
- Focus on teaching natural, common words and phrases, helping students learn things like collocations, phrasal verbs, and fixed expressions, and practise these in speaking and writing.
- Include pronunciation in every lesson.
- Give regular feedback that matches the students' level and offer advice on how they can improve their skills and reach their learning goals.
- Record language in an organised way and support students in taking notes and keeping their materials organised. Teachers make sure students have notebooks or folders for their work. If they don't, advise them on how to get these materials.
- Listen to students' opinions. Students should feel comfortable talking to the teacher about any issues, questions, or concerns related to learning.
- Set homework to review and build on what was taught in class.
- Encourage students to use English outside the classroom and show them how they can keep learning after the course finishes. Students will be helped to make the most of learning in Manchester.

Reviewed November 2025 – Next review November 2026 or in the event of staffing, policy, or legislative changes

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IN ADDITION, AT INTERNATIONAL HOUSE MANCHESTER, STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Take part fully in class.
- Practise new language by working in pairs, groups, and on their own in different activities.
- Show regular use of most of the language skills and grammar for their current level before moving to the next one.
- Speak only in English in and around the school.
- Build on what they learn in class by doing homework and using English outside the classroom.
- Help to create and keep a positive learning environment.

Be respectful of other students' personalities, cultural differences, opinions and needs.

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