

The International Baccalaureate  
**Hasseris Gymnasium & IB World School**

**STUDENT SUPPORT POLICY**  
**The IB Diploma Programme**



Updated: September 2014  
Next review: September 2015

## STUDENT SUPPORT POLICY

A core value at Hasseris Gymnasium and IB World School is that the school wants to provide the best possible means for meeting the needs of each individual student. Hence, the school's policy for student support is not only aimed at students with special educational needs, but aspires to embrace a variety of student challenges. When a need is detected in a student, the IB coordinator will contact the student and, if under 18, also the parents. Depending on the situation a plan will be devised. This could include:

- Weekly consultations with the IB coordinator to monitor general "well-being" within the system and could for instance involve help to plan written assignments
- Extra funding from the Danish Educational support system (S.U.) so that a student with a learning disability diagnose or a psychiatric diagnose can have extra support ("SPS-støtte")
- Participation in the school's Exam Anxiety Workshop
- Free consultations with the school's psychologist
- Participation in the school's talent programmes for students with special skills in with the humanities, the social sciences, maths or the sciences.

If a student has or is in the process of being diagnosed, the school works closely with hospitals, doctors etc., if permitted to by parents and the student.

Students with specific special educational needs can get help in a number of ways at Hasseris Gymnasium. Here the IB Department and the IB coordinator, who is responsible for and directly involved in all student support, work closely with the stx department and utilizes the various support offers this system provides, for instance in connection with the use of IT for exams.

## READING COUNSELLING

The school offers reading counselling for all students according to the following policy, formulated by the school's reading counsellors:

### Part One

All new IB students attending Hasseris Gymnasium are screened for dyslexia or other reading and writing difficulties when they begin their studies. The screening also tests the students' general vocabulary, their grammar and their ability to understand different types of texts.

The various elements in the screening test:

- reading speed (Danish as well as English)
- text comprehension (Danish as well as English)
- spelling skills (Danish as well as English)
- grammar skills (Danish as well as English)
- ability to decode nonsense words (Danish)
- perception of words (Danish)

Following the screening, the reading counsellor has talks with students whose screening results show signs of reading or writing difficulties. These students are offered further counselling and/or tests to establish any dyslexic patterns. In case of dyslexia the school can apply for electronic aids from "Kvalitetsstyrelsen" (a Danish government agency under the Ministry of Education).

## **Part Two**

At the beginning of the school year the students attending PreIB at Hasseris Gymnasium are all taught basic strategies to support their daily reading in different subjects. The reading counselor is available to help students who experience specific difficulties with reading or writing.

### **Other initiatives to support reading and learning skills**

All teachers in both PreIB and IB must state a “reading target” for all lessons. This is done under the lesson in “Lectio” and is always available for the students when preparing homework. Moreover, at the beginning of each school year each subject teacher will discuss reading strategies and make “reading recipes” with their students for their individual subjects. These initiatives are initiated not only to support students with special educational needs, but all IB students.

Likewise, every Thursday afternoon optional workshops are available for all students in all the sciences, languages and maths. For students with special needs or difficulties in a subject, additional workshops can be arranged in smaller groups.

### **MENTOR TALKS**

Every student in IB1 and IB2 at Hasseris Gymnasium and IB World School has a mentor. The mentor is an IB teacher who knows the IB system and may be one of the student’s subject teachers.

#### **Definition of mentor talks**

- Mentor talks are organised, structured and well-prepared talks between a student and a mentor.
- They take place twice a year during IB1 and IB2
- Each talk has a duration of max. 20 minutes.
- As preparation for the talks students are sometimes required to fill in a questionnaire

#### **Topics**

- The learning environment in class between teacher, student and fellow students
- The student’s role in the creation of this environment
- Homework
- The planning and writing of assignments