Bul. "Zahari Stoyanov", Meden Rudnik, 8009 Burgas, office@codingburgas.bg, codingburgas.bg

IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME ACCESS AND ADMISSION POLICY

This policy has been produced in alignment with:

- *Programme Standards and Practices* (IBO October 2018, last update April 2022),
- *Rules for IB World Schools* (IBO June 2020, last update November 2023).

Bul. "Zahari Stoyanov", Meden Rudnik, 8009 Burgas, office@codingburgas.bg, codingburgas.bg

VSCPI IB DP – Admission Policy	
Applicable to	Secondary Schools, Grades 11 and 12
Teams / Individuals	VSCPI Faculty, Parents, and Students
Publishing Channel	Website and through internal email, VSCPI Student-Parent Handbook, VSCPI Staff Handbook

Updated By	Latest Publish Date	Monitoring Cycle
Elitsa Bratanova	December 2025	1 x Year
Effective from	August 2026	

Related policies and procedures

This policy statement should be read alongside our organizational policies and procedures, including:

- VSCPI IB DP – Inclusion Policy
- VSCPI IB DP – Assessment Policy
- VSCPI IB DP – Academic Integrity Policy
- VSCPI IB DP – Language Policy

This document outlines the admission process, preventive and inclusive approach, and subject selection framework for students enrolling in the upper secondary programme, including preparation for the IB Diploma Programme.

IB Philosophy and Access Commitment

Bul. "Zahari Stoyanov", Meden Rudnik, 8009 Burgas, office@codingburgas.bg, codingburgas.bg

VSCPI is committed to the IB mission and the development of the IB Learner Profile in all students. The school promotes equitable access to the Diploma Programme and ensures that admission decisions are guided by the principles of inclusion, international-mindedness, academic integrity, and student well-being.

In alignment with IB expectations, VSCPI ensures that all students and families receive transparent information about programme requirements, subject pathways, language expectations, and assessment demands prior to entering the DP.

Bul. "Zahari Stoyanov", Meden Rudnik, 8009 Burgas, office@codingburgas.bg, codingburgas.bg

Table of Contents

Information and Guidance Process Prior to DP Admission 5

Diplomas and Academic Pathways 5

Admission Criteria and Transparency 6

1. National External Examination Requirements (after Grade 10) 6
2. Academic Readiness for the Full Diploma Programme 7
3. Language Proficiency Requirements 7
4. Admission to the Full Diploma Programme 7
5. Transparency of Criteria 7

Course Selection 7

IB Diploma Programme Structure 8

1. Six IB subjects 8
2. Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL) distribution 8
3. The DP Core 8
4. Language of instruction: 8

Language Courses 9

Language Support for Access 9

Change of Pathway 10

Important Documents 10

Bul. "Zahari Stoyanov", Meden Rudnik, 8009 Burgas, office@codingburgas.bg, codingburgas.bg

Information and Guidance Process Prior to DP Admission

VSCPI implements a structured information and guidance process to ensure that students and families make informed decisions about entering the IB Diploma Programme. As the school is launching the DP for the first time in September 2026, the information process for the first cohort follows an adapted timeline that reflects the school's authorization year.

Sequence of the information process

1. Initial DP Information Session:

Held during the academic year prior to DP entry (spring/summer 2026). Families receive an overview of the DP structure, subject groups, assessment expectations, language requirements, and university recognition.

2. Subject Information Presentations:

Subject teachers present course expectations, HL/SL differences, assessment types, and workload. These sessions may be delivered in person or online depending on the authorization timeline.

3. Individual Guidance Meetings:

Assessment workload, internal assessment requirements, and examination expectations are explicitly discussed during guidance meetings to ensure students and families understand the academic demands of the Diploma Programme.

4. Final Course Selection and Approval:

- Students submit a DP Course Selection Form.
- The Academic Committee reviews and approves final subject choices.

Participants in the DP design interview:

- Student
- Parent/guardian
- DP Coordinator
- Academic Coordinator (as needed)
- Inclusion or Language Lead (when relevant)

Diplomas and Academic Pathways

VSCPI offers two pathways for high school leaving certification:

- IB Diploma Programme (IB DP)
- VSCPI High School Diploma

Bul. "Zahari Stoyanov", Meden Rudnik, 8009 Burgas, office@codingburgas.bg, codingburgas.bg

Our aim is to encourage as many students as possible to pursue the IB Diploma Programme, while ensuring that access remains ethical, inclusive, and student-centred.

Admission decisions are guided by student readiness, well-being, and the likelihood of success in the Diploma Programme. Where significant concerns exist, the school works collaboratively with the student and family to identify the most appropriate pathway.

For many of our families, the IB DP is the preferred pathway to university admission, especially considering that approximately:

- 60% of our students pursue higher education in Bulgaria,
- 30% in European Union and
- 10% in the UK and overseas.

Depending on the preferred country of study, choosing the IB Certificate or VSCPI High School Diploma pathway may limit university options. Therefore, VSCPI strongly encourages as many students as possible to pursue the full IB Diploma, even if they may not fully meet the technical requirements during the course selection process before entering Grade 11. This approach provides access to the IB DP, but it must be clearly understood that if the academic rigor proves too demanding, the school will review the student's progress and may recommend a change of pathway following a meeting with the Academic Committee and the family. Any change in pathway is at the sole discretion of the school but will be thoroughly explained to both students and parents.

Admission Criteria and Transparency

Admission to the IB Diploma Programme at VSCPI is based on clear, published criteria that ensure equitable access and informed decision-making. These criteria are communicated to the entire school community through the school website, the Student-Parent Handbook, Grade 10 information sessions, and individual guidance meetings.

1. National External Examination Requirements (after Grade 10)

In accordance with Bulgarian national regulations, students applying for the IB Diploma Programme must have completed the four mandatory National External Assessments (HBO) after Grade 10 in:

– **Mathematics**

– English Language

– Computer Science

– Bulgarian Language and Literature

Students must achieve a minimum of **60 points in each subject**, with a combined **minimum score of 240 points across all four examinations.**

2. Academic Readiness for the Full Diploma Programme

VSCPI offers only the full IB Diploma Programme. Students must therefore demonstrate readiness to engage with all six DP subjects and the DP Core. Academic readiness is evaluated through:

– Consistent academic performance in Grades 9–10

– Teacher recommendations regarding suitability for HL and SL coursework

– Evidence of responsible learning behaviours and attendance

– Participation in the DP design interview and completion of the DP Course Selection and Agreement Form

3. Language Proficiency Requirements

Since most DP subjects at VSCPI are taught in English, students must demonstrate sufficient English proficiency to access HL and SL coursework. Where needed, the school provides additional language support as outlined in the VSCPI Language Policy to ensure equitable access to the full DP.

4. Admission to the Full Diploma Programme

All students admitted to the IB Diploma Programme at VSCPI are enrolled as Full Diploma Candidates, completing six subjects and the DP Core (TOK, EE, CAS).

5. Transparency of Criteria

All admission criteria are published annually and reviewed with students and families during Grade 10. The school ensures that all families have equal access to information, guidance, and support throughout the admission process.

Course Selection

VSCPI offers exact IB courses for student selection. However, admission into the VSCPI IB DP requires students to comply with the school's rules and requirements

regarding course selection.

IB Diploma Programme Structure

VSCPI offers a single, fixed IB Diploma Programme subject package. All students admitted to the DP follow the full diploma model and complete the following components:

1. Six IB subjects

Students are enrolled in one subject from each IB group, according to the school's approved subject offering:

– Bulgarian A: Literature (SL)
– English B (HL)
– Digital Society (SL)
– Computer Science (HL)
– Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches (HL)
– German ab initio (SL)

2. Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level (SL) distribution

VSCPI does not offer a four Higher Level subject option. All students follow a three HL and three SL subject model.

3. The DP Core

All students complete the three compulsory core components:

– Theory of Knowledge (TOK)
– Extended Essay (EE)
– Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS)

4. Language of instruction:

– Bulgarian A: Literature is taught in Bulgarian
– All other DP subjects are taught in English

5. Language proficiency expectations

Students must demonstrate sufficient English proficiency to access HL and SL coursework taught in English. Where needed, VSCPI provides additional language support as outlined in the VSCPI Language Policy.

IB Group	Group Name	Subject	Level
Group 1	Studies in Language and Literature	Bulgarian A: Literature	SL
Group 2	Language Acquisition	English B	HL
Group 3	Individuals and Societies	Digital Society	SL
Group 4	Sciences	Computer Science	HL
Group 5	Mathematics	Mathematics: Analysis and Approaches	HL
Group 6	The Arts (subject chosen from another group – Group 2)	German ab initio	SL

The subject package has been designed to ensure compliance with IB requirements while reflecting the school's language profile and academic strengths. Students and families confirm their understanding of this structure by signing the DP Course Selection and Agreement Form.

Students and their parents/guardians and the school will complete and sign a course selection form, which will guide their academic pathway toward achieving their university or career aspirations.

Language Courses

VSCPI does not currently offer Language A: Literature as a self-taught subject. Language course placement follows the VSCPI Language Policy.

The placement policies for Languages, particularly for Language B and Language ab initio, are detailed in the VSCPI Language Policy.

Language Support for Access

VSCPI recognises that language proficiency is essential for success in the DP. Students who require additional development in the language of instruction (English or Bulgarian) will receive targeted support, including:

– Additional language classes
– Small-group instruction
– Language workshops focused on academic writing and terminology
– Collaboration with the Inclusion and Language Leads

These supports are aligned with the VSCPI Language Policy and ensure equitable access to the full DP.

Bul. "Zahari Stoyanov", Meden Rudnik, 8009 Burgas, office@codingburgas.bg, codingburgas.bg

Change of Pathway

VSCPI admits students only to the full IB Diploma Programme.

Important Documents

Students and parents/guardians are required to sign two important documents documenting the academic pathway of a student (admission to the VSCPI IB DP):

- Course Selection Form G10 to G11 (in its most current form)
- VSCPI IB DP Contract

The contract emphasizes the final authority of the Academic Committee (comprised of Academic Coordinator, IB Coordinator and the Head of School) in determining students' placement within, and potential adjustment of the respective academic pathway.