

Language

POLICY

Rationale: Why Learn Chinese?

- The ability to use a language other than English (LOTE), to understand and/or move between different cultures is important for full participation in modern society, especially in the context of increasing globalisation and growing cultural diversity in our city and region.
- Many studies have demonstrated the benefits of learning a second language not only on student's linguistic abilities but on their cognitive and creative abilities as well.
- Research suggests that bilingual children's knowledge of a second language gives them an advantage in learning to read. Their ability to apply the insights and experiences of one language to the other as well as their wider experience of language gives them a big advantage.
- The future is bright for young Australians with Chinese language skills and an understanding of Chinese culture. Knowledge of Chinese language can open doors to a wide range of employment opportunities in the areas of banking, business, education, hospitality, retail and tourism. China offers a unique history, geography and culture.

Aims:

- In learning to use the language effectively, students develop an understanding of the cultural contexts in which the language is used, as well as the shared meanings, values and practices of the community as embodied in that language.
- Students develop an understanding of the growing cultural diversity in their own city/region and they develop their understandings of multicultural awareness in their own community.
- Students develop an understanding of the way language works (its structure, the role it plays, and its effects), which they can apply to other languages, including English.
- While learning an additional language, students gain knowledge of and make connections across a range of concepts drawn from other learning areas.

Implementation:

- The language selected for our school will be decided by School Council after wide community consultation.
- All students at our school will study a sequential 'hands on Chinese course based upon the outcomes contained within AusVELS/Australian Curriculum: Languages. Learning opportunities are provided that cater for the identified needs of each student.
- Chinese study for each student will include a weekly formal lesson followed by additional activities in the student's classroom and student progress will be reported each semester in school comment form. An additional extension class may also be offered after school hours.
- A budget that provides for the needs of the Language program will be based on school needs.
- The Chinese language teacher will be responsible for supporting school cultural events including Gum Loong, Education Week and multicultural events for the school.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.