



LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE) POLICY

Rationale

In the context of increasing globalisation and Australia's cultural diversity it is integral for students to be immersed in and develop an appreciation of other cultures.

Learning a language:

- Develops students' knowledge and understanding of social, historical and cultural aspects of a designated country
- Enables students to communicate within a multi-cultural society and the wider global community
- Enables English language speakers to gain some proficiency in speaking another language
- Enables students to understand, appreciate and value those of different backgrounds
- Develops a great awareness of cultural diversity and foster the development of culturally aware citizens
- Provides the foundations for future language acquisition
- Contributes to the development of interculturally aware citizens
- Fosters bilingual and plurilingual capabilities (which is the norm in most parts of the world)

1 Guidelines

1.1 The Languages curriculum aims to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure that students:

- Communicate in the language they are learning
- Understand the relationship between language, culture and learning
- Develop intercultural capabilities
- Understand themselves as communicators

1.2 At Wheelers Hill Primary School Prep students study French for one semester and Mandarin for one semester each year. Years 1, 3 and 5 study a whole year of Mandarin. Years 2, 4 and 6 study a whole year of French. This exposes students to a Roman Alphabet Language (where the reading demands on students are similar to those of English) and a Character Language (which involves different reading processes from alphabet reading, and the learning of a new script).

2 Implementation

2.1 LOTE standards in both French and Mandarin are based on the Victorian Curriculum and are assessed and reported on from Prep – Year 6 each semester.

2.2 The curriculum in both languages includes reading, writing, listening and speaking skills and includes cultural materials and resources.

2.3 The main emphasis of languages teaching is on communication (socialising, informing, creating, translating, reflecting) and understandings (systems of language, language variation and change, role of language and culture).

2.4 A Languages Day is held every second year to celebrate both Mandarin and French.

3 Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Made available publicly on our school website
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

4 Evaluation

The Education Sub Committee will review the effectiveness of the school's Languages Other Than English Policy on a cyclical basis in accordance with DET guidelines.

Related policies



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Leasyl Richards – Assistant Principal.

Policy Area

Education

Ratified by School Council

June 2023

Approved by Principal

June 2023

Next review

2027