



Serpell Primary School Languages Policy



Rationale

The ability to use a language other than English, to understand and have an appreciation of different cultures is important for full participation as a global citizen in the modern world, especially in the context of increasing globalisation and Australia's cultural diversity. Learning a language nurtures reflective, deep and creative thinking and cultivates knowledge of different cultures.

Aims

- Students will begin or extend their communication skills in the target languages for many purposes and contexts.
- Students are able to extend their social contacts, and have direct access to knowledge, ideas and information written or spoken in the target languages.
- Students will learn to use the language effectively – developing 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 will develop an understanding of the way language works (its structure, purpose), which can then be applied to other languages, including English.
- Students will increase their awareness of the multi-cultural nature of Australian society and become more internationally minded.
- To lay the foundation for learning other languages in the future.

Implementation

1. Victorian government schools are required under legislation and as a condition of their registration with the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority (VRQA) to provide a curriculum that contains Languages other than English, from Prep – Year 10.
2. Learning languages in addition to English extends student's literacy repertoires and their capacity to communicate. It strengthens student's understanding of the nature of language, culture, and the processes of communication.
3. The Languages program will be conducted in Mandarin and Greek in beginning, advanced and accelerated levels.
4. Student progress in Languages will be reported in the semester one and semester two written reports for students in Year 5 and 6 only, as required by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.
5. Language activities that reflect the units being studied and are appropriate to each child's ability, will form a component of the curriculum at the appropriate level.
6. Links will be made between weekly Language lessons and everyday classroom life.
7. Cultural experiences will be provided for throughout the year, when appropriate.
8. Language teachers will be encouraged to seek support through networks and other language teachers.

Evaluation:

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

Ratification:

This policy was ratified by the School Council on Monday the 16th of April 2018.