

Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

RATIONALE

- Languages (LOTE) contribute materially to the universal purposes of schooling and to the development of skills in thinking and reflection. Learning languages broadens students' horizons about the personal, social, cultural and employment opportunities that are available in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. The interdependence of countries and communities requires students to learn to negotiate experiences and meanings across languages and cultures. Learning a language nurtures creative thinking in specific ways, cultivates culturally distinctive fields of knowledge, and stimulates awareness of intellectual functioning.

Learning languages:

- develops knowledge of other cultures, including understanding of and respect for diversity and difference, and an openness to different experiences and perspectives
- develops communication skills in and knowledge of the language being studied while strengthening the understanding of the nature of language, of culture, and of the processes of communication
- develops understanding of how culture shapes learners' understanding of themselves, their heritage, values, beliefs, culture and identity
- strengthens intellectual, analytical and reflective capabilities, and embraces creative and critical thinking

AIMS

The learning of languages aims to develop the 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

LANGUAGES STUDIED

- Prior to 2018, Japanese was the language taught at SEPS. From 2018, both Japanese and Chinese will be taught.
- Beginning in 2018, SEPS will trial the teaching of Chinese for a three year period. Initially, Foundation Level students will learn Chinese. In 2019, Foundation and Level One students will learn Chinese. In 2020, Foundation, Level One and Level Two students will learn Chinese.
- During this three year period, all other year levels will continue to learn Japanese.
- At the end of 2019, a decision will be made about whether Japanese is continued for all students, or phased out and Chinese continued with students entering Foundation, as the language taught at SEPS

IMPLEMENTATION

- Languages are an essential component of The Victorian Curriculum, being one of the Learning Areas. In addition, the Cross-Curriculum Priority of Learning about Asia and Australia's Engagement with Asia is addressed, in part, by the study of Asian languages.
- All students at SEPS will study a sequential Language course based upon the Learning Sequence F-10, made up of two Strands (Communicating and Understanding) contained within The Victorian Curriculum.
- Student's individual abilities must be measured at the commencement of each unit of work, and learning opportunities must be provided that cater for the identified needs of each student.
- The Language teacher is required to plan and deliver practical and 'hands on' Language classes for all students based on the content and guidelines detailed in The Victorian Curriculum.
- Progress of students in LOTE will be reported in half and end of the year academic reports as referred to the Languages phases of learning (formerly progression measures).
- Language study for each student will be one 100 minute lesson per fortnight from Levels F-6.
- A budget that provides for the needs of the Language program will be developed in consultation with the Language teacher and principal.
- The Language teacher will be allocated the responsibility of coordinating the school's Language program, including a Celebrating Our Asian Neighbours day, excursions, all aspects of intern program and our Japanese international trip including a visit to our sister school. The Japan Trip will be offered to all students in Level 5 & 6 and proceed when there is a sufficient number of students planning to attend.
- The Language teacher will also be responsible for delivering the Chinese language program at SEPS.

EVALUATION

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

This policy was ratified by School Council – June 2019