

Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

Time allocation: 1 hour per week - becoming language literate (yrs 3-6)
Equivalent to 1 hour per week – becoming global society (F-6)

Rationale:

The language that was selected to be taught at Epsom Primary School is Chinese – Mandarin. This is complemented by the Chinese exchange program that school implements. The program is divided into two components:

- Becoming part of a Global society: through cultural appreciation, which encompasses making comparisons between the Chinese and Australian culture as well as social and cultural appreciation.
- Becoming language literate: through the learning of Chinese - Mandarin

Purpose:

1. To enable speakers of English to gain some social and functional proficiency within a Language Other than English.
2. To assist learners to develop an awareness of the importance of literacy and language as a powerful tool for communication in a diverse world.
3. To enable learners to appreciate and respect the views of others, their social customs and cultures both within our own multi-cultural society and the world.
4. To prepare learners for increasing participation in all aspects of social and cultural life, in a multi-cultural world.
5. To use new technologies to engage students in meaningful use of language

Guidelines for implementation:

1. The target language for the current period will be Chinese, which will be implemented as a second language program. This will be taught by a trained language teacher
2. LOTE program will be planned and implemented in line with the Victorian Government's Vision for Languages Education and AUSVELS cross-curriculum priority of 'Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia.
3. The LOTE program will be addressed across all year levels as follows:
 - An integrated cultural awareness approach P-6, incorporating history and social customs. This will be done through Inquiry and will be complete in a term focus
 - A language acquisition program will be implemented in the 3-6 classrooms, run by the Chinese Language Teacher
 - Chinese exchange program, where year 5/6 students apply to visit the sister school in China. This is reciprocated by Chinese students staying with host families and attending class in the 5/6 area for 8 weeks.
 - Chinese cultural celebration day, held yearly.

Resources:

The Victorian Government's Vision for Languages Education (October 2012)
Languages 2025 – Draft plan for implementing the Victorian Governments Vision for Language Education (2012)
AUSVELS documentation