

St Francis Xavier Primary School

LOTE: Chinese (Mandarin)

Rationale

At St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, we believe it is important to provide students with the opportunity to learn a language other than English so that they will grow in their awareness and appreciation of Australia as a multicultural, multilingual society within a global community. Learning another language can extend students' literacy repertoires and improve their capacity to communicate. It also provides a foundation for students to go onto learning a language beyond Primary school. It strengthens students' understanding of the nature of language, culture, and the processes of communication.

Purpose:

At St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School we aim to ensure that students:

- have an enjoyable and successful experience in learning a language other than English.
- understand the differences between Australian culture and other cultures.
- develop the important communication skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in the target language;
- have an understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture.
- Develop a positive attitude towards cultural and linguistic diversity and expose them to Chinese celebrations, traditions, customs and lifestyles of another cultural group.
- foster an attitude that learning a language other than English is valuable, and the important of globalisation.
- broaden the students' knowledge of the world and Australia's as part of this.

Implementation:

At St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School:

- Chinese (Mandarin) is taught from Prep to Year 6. Each class is allocated once a week for forty minutes.
- Chinese Mandarin lessons are delivered in an interactive manner that maximises student engagement and learning.
- A wide range of materials and activities such as songs, games, quizzes, craft, stories, language learning apps, Youtube clips and videos are used to develop the students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.
- Gestures and other visual cues are also used to support learning and understanding.
- Each year level covers a different topic based on the Victorian Curriculum (F-10)
- A variety of assessments are used to monitor and demonstrate student's knowledge and ability with the language based on 2 strands in the Victorian Curriculum which are Communicating and Understanding.
- Students learn to appreciate Chinese Culture through different cultural activities each term such as the art of Chinese paper cutting, making Chinese lanterns and Chinese calligraphy.
- Students also learn about the significant celebrations and festivals of Chinese culture, including Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival through bible stories, stories, songs and legends. Students are also shown how the meaning of some Chinese characters correspond directly to stories found in the Bible.
- Elements of Chinese cultural are taught, to help students better understand and appreciate the culture of Chinese speaking countries. Some of these cultural opportunities include traditional Chinese song and making Chinese cultural crafts.
- Annual LOTE (Mandarin) Day is celebrated each year, celebrating the Chinese culture and/or leaning in this area.
- An annual budget is allocated to the LOTE department that provides for the needs of the LOTE program.
- School incursions are organised throughout the year to enrich students' learning experiences in Chinese. These include visits from Chinese artists, musicians, calligraphers, and cultural performers who provide hands-on workshops and live demonstrations, allowing students to engage more deeply with the language and traditions in an authentic context.
- A Mandarin Lunchtime Club is offered to students who are interested in extending their learning beyond the classroom. The club provides a relaxed and fun environment where students can explore Chinese language and culture through activities such as cooking, Chinese board games, craft, storytelling, music, and simple conversation practice.

Evaluation:

This policy will be revisited every odd year (e.g. 2025, 2027), reviewed as part of the School's Review cycle or as changes are made to the Victorian curriculum.