



# SIDE Languages Program

## Primary

The SIDE Primary Languages Program operates from the SIDE campus in Leederville. We deliver **French, Indonesian, Italian and Japanese** lessons to regional and remote primary schools unable to access a face-to-face languages teacher.

As you would be aware, implementation of the Western Australian Curriculum: Languages will be phased in from Year 3 in 2018. Information regarding support for the implementation of compulsory language programs is available at:

SCSA: <http://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/p-10-curriculum/curriculum-browser/languages>

DOE: <http://det.wa.edu.au/supportforschools/detcms/navigation/effective-teaching/implementing-a-languages-program/?app-id=401>

### **Delivery of Languages Program:**

Standard lesson delivery is online via web conferencing. However, other platforms may be available. Please contact the Languages team to discuss your individual situation if unsure.

Programs are available for students from Pre-primary through to Year 6. Maximum class size is 12 students. Timetabling of concurrent classes may be possible but is not always practicable depending on staffing, internet speed and the number of available computers.

The program is delivered in **two 40 minute lessons each week**. Engaging in two lessons per week provides optimal learning opportunities for the students and minimises the effect of breaks in the program due to school events or technical issues. This time allocation is not negotiable as we are staffed on this basis.

Once participation in the program is confirmed, schools must commit to the program for the whole of the 2018 school year.

### **Supervision of students:**

Active supervision of students during lesson delivery is a school responsibility and is a condition of participating in the program.

### **Technical requirements:**

- Reliable internet connection (recommended minimum speed 10 mbps)
- Up-to-date web browser and Adobe Flash player
- Working computer with Windows 10.10 or above or Mac OS version 10.0 or above
- USB microphone headset for each computer.

## Why learn a Second Language?

Learning a Language Other Than English through primary and secondary school will enable students to:

- *see the world from a different point of view*
- *communicate*
- *learn about other cultures*
- *gain a better understanding of the English language*
- *develop a skill for the future*
- *enhance their vocational prospects*
- *develop a longing for lifelong learning*
- *develop intellectually*
- *develop socially*
- *engage in enjoyable and enriching experiences*
- *develop positive self-esteem.*

## How does learning a second language help students develop skills?

The skills which students acquire through the process of learning a language will help their overall performance at school and their development of social skills.

### Reading performance in English is improved

Students who learn a language develop confidence with unfamiliar words and they understand better how language works

### Ability to think is improved

Students who are learning a second language are more likely to try different ways of solving problems.

### Language learning skills are developed

Through the process of learning another language, students develop the skills necessary to improve their understanding of English and learn further languages more easily.

### Other areas of learning benefit

The skills which students develop through language learning promote learning in other subjects.

### Personal skills are developed

Current methods of learning languages encourage the use of the language for real communication. Participation in these learning activities, with partners and in groups, helps children learn to relate better and encourages confidence and self-esteem.

## All learners can achieve a level of success

An effective languages program, such as those provided by SIDE, will produce benefits for learners of all ability levels just as programs in other subject areas do.

## How does learning a second language help children develop an understanding of others?

It is important that students understand from an early age that there are many equally valuable approaches to life. Human cultures have developed a variety of ways to meet the same basic needs. Learning a language offers students the opportunity to understand life from the perspective of other cultures.

Language reflects the way people think, the way people relate and the way people cooperate. The learning of languages offers students the opportunity to develop a greater understanding of people, societies and culture. It also develops a foundation from which they can extend their understanding to further cultures. This is particularly important for a multicultural community in an increasingly global society.

## Literacy and Second Language Learning

An important part of being literate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is to be able to manage communication across languages and cultures. To understand the cultures of other people you need to understand how their language works.

**It is quite normal for people to speak more than one language.** The idea that only academically able students should learn another language is based on a tradition of associating language study with the classics (eg Latin). This historical practice has nothing to do with the ability of people to acquire language because we know that this ability is not linked to particular intelligence.

Literacy is developed in all areas of the curriculum. However, learning another language will enhance literacy in English. Through the study of a second language students have the opportunity to compare how the two languages work and so gain a better understanding of English as a language system. There is a lot of evidence to support this claim. Some of the ways learning a second language enhances learners' literacy skills are:

- learners are required to compare features of their first language with those of another language so they are better able to understand the structure and workings of English
- language learners develop their skills in making meaning from words and this transfers to English
- learners develop flexibility and competence in dealing with language concepts
- a second language can provide a new beginning and success for learners who have struggled with English. This has been shown to be beneficial, both in terms of English language development and for the self-esteem of learners.

Furthermore, in this age of new technologies, multimedia and increasing global connections, it is important for children to know how to manage communication and knowledge transfer across languages and cultures. The study of a second language in addition to English supports the development of these skills.

### **Learning a language through SIDE**

....is fun and technologically exciting and challenging. Students in regional, rural and remote schools have the opportunity to learn a second language with experienced, highly trained Language teachers located at the Schools of Isolated and Distance Education campus in Leederville.

Languages classes are delivered to the students during the normal school timetable by a variety of technologies determined by the needs of the school. The SIDE Language teachers work closely with the base school teachers to ensure that the learning program is engaging and relevant.

