



1.12. Mandarin

Second Language Learning at Parnell District School.

Aims:

- To introduce students to the culture of second language learning, (classroom processes, acquiring vocabulary, oral skills- listening and speaking)
- To introduce students to basic linguistic concepts (grammar and semantics)
- To demonstrate the multi-faceted nature of second language learning (word derivations, geography, culture, trade, tourism)
- To demonstrate that second language learning is a worthwhile and pleasurable experience.

The programme in action: The Mandarin teachers will

- Plan and deliver Mandarin lessons to half of the Year 4-8 classes in the school (three quarters of an hour to Year 7/8 students; half an hour with Years 4-6) on Fridays.
- Prepare timetable in consultation with class teachers.
- Assessment – forward progress results to be included in formative reporting. The expectation is that in Year 7/8 some children will be 2P
- Lead our participation in the Auckland Lantern Festival (dance performances)
- Manage Mandarin budget and resources
- Provide demonstration lessons in Mandarin for visitors (dignitaries, the media etc.)
- Model support for both the English and Mandarin languages
- Liaise with the Asia: NZ Foundation/Confucius Institute as required.
- Oversee the work of the assistant teacher – induction programme in 2012
- Assist in writing milestone reports to the board of Trustees and Han Ban
- Oversee the development of the Parnell Confucius library
- Support sister school initiative (Shanghai Far East School)
- Decide on Mandarin prizes for End of Year Prize-giving
- Co-ordinate visits by performers from China
- Network with other Mandarin teachers in Auckland

Rationale: Preparing New Zealanders for 21st Century contact with Asia

Successive Ministers of Education have been committed to the vision that the people of New Zealand have the knowledge, skills, values and understanding they need to fulfil themselves, to live in and contribute effectively to a global society and to work in a global economy.

Asia is now the region whose current emergence is one of history's greatest catalysts for worldwide change. New Zealanders require new skills, knowledge and understanding related to the Asian region and Australia's engagement with Asia in order to meet the challenges and opportunities of living and working in the twenty-first century.

Globally the Asian region is of great significance. Asia includes:

- 60% of the world's population and 30% of world land mass
- the world's two most populous nations, China and India
- some of the most dynamic civilisations of all time
- a great diversity of belief systems including Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity, and Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country
- the world's second largest economy, Japan, and the two fastest growing major economies, China and India.

For New Zealanders, the countries of the Asian region are of critical importance. They are amongst our closest neighbours and major trading partners. They represent the cultural heritage of a growing number of Australians and their rich traditional and contemporary cultures provide opportunities for our social, creative and intellectual development.

Educating New Zealanders for a world in which the Asian region plays a major role requires a substantial response by New Zealand's education jurisdictions and schools. As a nation develops so too does the body of knowledge valued by it. In Australia we 'have grown up in a society which has historically acted as if the only really important ideas, cultures, beliefs and norms are those with their origins in western Europe and latterly North America...'

Young people can only make sense of their world and be active and informed citizens when they develop a sound understanding of the wider global context in which they are operating.

The Asian region and New Zealand's engagement with Asia are central to that context for all New Zealanders.

Adapted for a New Zealand context from

1. Asia Education Foundation (2000) *Studies of Asia: A Statement for Australian Schools* (Second Edition), Curriculum Corporation, Melbourne, p 5.
2. In April 1999, State, Territory and Commonwealth Ministers of Education endorsed The Adelaide Declaration of National Goals for Schooling in the Twenty-First Century.