

Robertson State School

Bilingual Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Can you outline how the Bilingual Program will be undertaken in Year 1?

Answer

- Up to two classes (approximately 50 students).
- Content and Language Integration (CLIL) method is being used.
- Classes will have a balance of academic levels, students need to demonstrate the emotional and social resilience for a bilingual learning environment.
- Students need to demonstrate independence (age-appropriate) and an aptitude for learning a language other than English.
- Classrooms side by side (an English classroom and Chinese classroom)
- Students will still access all specialist classes in English (Music, HPE and Library)
- Students are taught the Australian Curriculum in the following way;

ENGLISH	CHINESE
English Australian Curriculum	Mathematics Australian Curriculum
Robertson State School Literacy Program	Science Australian Curriculum
History/Geography Australian Curriculum	Language Australian Curriculum
The Arts Curriculum	Chinese Literacy (school developed)

2. Will students remain in the same class group in the following year?

Answer

- The program requires a two year commitment therefore the students who have signed up for the bilingual program will remain in the program. If there are two classes children may move between classes if it maximises their learning. If possible we would like to keep the same teacher with the group.

3. **Will the English teacher and the Chinese teacher in the Bilingual Program have special training in the content of Mathematics, Science and other subjects?**

Answer

- All teachers employed in the program must be certified through the Queensland College of Teachers. To be certified they have to complete a university degree in primary education or equivalent which includes training in subjects offered in the P-6 Australian Curriculum.

4. **Will the Chinese teacher teach Mathematics and Science in Chinese?**

Answer

- 50% of Mathematics/Science will be taught in Chinese and 50% in English.
- The Chinese language will be integrated into the classroom, with English still used.

5. **In China, the concepts in Mathematics are taught in a different way to how they are taught in Australia?**

Answer

- As much as possible the Chinese classroom will mirror the teaching/pedagogy that maximises the learning of the Chinese language as well as the needs of the students. Age-appropriate pedagogies for the early years will still be evidenced in the classroom. The content and concepts in Mathematics will come from the Australian Curriculum.

6. **How will subject content be taught?**

Answer

- See FAQ Question 1. The Chinese teacher and Head of Curriculum will work through the best way to approach the teaching of each subject. In some subjects new content may be taught in English first e.g. counting and numbers and then consolidated in Chinese.

7. **Will all year levels have access to the Bilingual Program?**

Answer

- No the Bilingual Program commences in Year 1. If the Program is deemed successful, these students will continue in the Bilingual Program through their primary years and a new intake will occur in Year 1 each year.

8. **Are there any high schools doing Chinese immersion?**

Answer

- Varsity College, Sunnybank State High School, Indooroopilly State High School (one subject, Mathematics is taught in Chinese) and Macgregor State High School has developed a Chinese immersion program, beginning in Year 7.

9. **Does learning in another language affect the children's NAPLAN results? Do children need to switch to English to understand?**

Answer

- From the evidence available, beginning the Bilingual Program in Year 1 does not affect their results on NAPLAN.
- The NAPLAN test papers are in English so students will be responding in English.

10. **How can parents support the Bilingual Program?**

Answer

- Teachers of the Bilingual Program would benefit from having Chinese speaking parents as volunteers to assist in the classroom.

11. **If Bilingual Program is successful, how will program be supported by high school pathways?**

Answer

- If high school does not offer Chinese, children will have to select the language that the high school offers.
- If the high school offers Chinese immersion the students would take this pathway.
- If the high school does not offer Chinese immersion but the subject Chinese a differentiated pathway or an extension language program may be offered.
- Students who take a Chinese immersion may finish the requirements for Year 12 Chinese language in Year 10 or Year 11 and progress to enrol in a University language subject or be able to explore more time on their other four subjects in Year 11 and Year 12.