Fitzroy North Primary School

Language Policy

HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Fitzroy North Primary School on 03 9481 5860 or fitzroy.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework that fosters multilingualism, cultural understanding, and communication skills among students at Fitzroy North Primary School. It aims to encourage proficiency in more than one language, focusing not only on linguistic competence but also an appreciation for diverse cultures. At Fitzroy North Primary School we aim to equip students with the ability to engage meaningfully in a variety of contexts, fostering a deeper understanding and respect for different perspectives and ways of communication.

2. PHILOSOPHY

At Fitzroy North Primary School, our practice is underpinned by our beliefs about educating the whole child. By allowing students the opportunity to express themselves socially, intellectually, creatively and physically in a manner that honours their own personal learning style, their learning journey becomes a reflection of their uniqueness. We strive to honour the rich diversity of our students, our staff and our community and develop a strong partnership between our school, our families and the wider community. We value the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of our students and their families, celebrate and promote language as a tool for inquiry, expression, and connecting with others in an increasingly globalised world.

3. POLICY

English is the foundation of our language program and Italian is the additional language and culture in which students are immersed. In addition to this, AUSLAN is taught at Fitzroy North Primary School. Students are exposed to the lasting culture and languages that our First Nations people use for communication through teaching the Victorian Curriculum and PYP Units of Inquiry. The use of mother tongue languages both at home and in the school environment is encouraged and supported. Teachers at Fitzroy North Primary School develop a rich classroom environment full of opportunities to engage with a variety of modes of language. Teaching and learning programs are designed to support students in their use of oral, written and visual language.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

As a Department of Education (Victoria) government school, Fitzroy North Primary School's language learning includes:

- prioritising literacy learning through instruction in speaking and listening, reading and writing
- embedding language across our Units of Inquiry making transdisciplinary links
- understanding the importance of language in Numeracy and explicitly recognising this in our planning
- weekly Italian and AUSLAN lessons for all students

Within a framework of whole class teaching and small structured groups, students are engaged in both reading and writing experiences where they can develop their skills and reflect on their learning. Fountas and Pinnell Levelled Literacy Intervention and the Tutor Learner Initiative are used to support students deemed at risk in language learning. Classroom practices in language learning include:

- explicit instruction on reading for meaning, fluency and accuracy
- explicit teaching of the concepts of print and phonemic awareness
- modelling strategies in reading and writing and scaffolding learning experiences
- student assessment in line with our Assessment and Reporting Schedule
- flexible grouping according to students' needs
- reading and discussing a variety of genres
- writing as a process exploring different text types and their appropriate use
- students engaged in writing cycles
- nurturing an appreciation of the richness of literature
- developing ICT literacy – to be used as a tool for learning, communication, and research
- teaching students to read and research using information from multiple sources, including multimedia

5. MOTHER TONGUE, ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL/D) AND LANGUAGE POPULATION

At Fitzroy North Primary School, our learners and their families represent approximately 18 (2024) spoken languages. Information about a student's cultural, linguistic and educational background is collected as part of the school enrolment process. Student information is also collected from parent/teacher interviews, reports from previous schools including transition reports from English language programs, past school reports and/or academic records from other countries. Teachers are aware of whether or not students speak English as their main language at home, how long each student has been learning English, each student's level of literacy in their first and any subsequent language/s and students' attendance at language classes external to the school.

6. ASSESSMENT

Language is monitored in line with our Assessment, Reporting and Moderation Schedule, using a range of assessment tools such as:

- Continuous reporting tasks
- Conferencing
- English Online Interview
- First Words assessment
- NAPLAN, PAT and Essential Assessments
- Writing sample analysis

7. POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	2026
Consultation	Policy and Curriculum Subcommittee – October 2024
Endorsed by School Council	November 2024
Shared with staff	Staff meeting December 2024
Next review date	2028