



Thomastown Meadows Primary School

Curriculum Policy

Languages

HONESTY EMPATHY RESPECT

Purpose

This policy outlines the requirements relating to language provision at Thomastown Meadows Primary School.

Scope

- Schools must provide a language program for students from Foundation to Year 10.
- Language programs must be delivered by a Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registered teacher or staff with permission to teach (refer to definitions below), across all year levels.

Policy

Victorian government and non-government schools are required under legislation (the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and as a condition of their registration with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) to provide a curriculum that substantially addresses the eight learning areas:

- The Arts
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- The Humanities
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technologies

Victorian government schools which do not provide a language program across all year levels are identified via the August school survey and February languages questionnaire. The Department then seeks an exemption from the VRQA from the requirement to provide a language program for 1 calendar year, on those schools' behalf, and supports school planning for the provision of a language program in the subsequent year.

Under Regulation 61 of the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic), the VRQA may exempt a school from providing a language program:

- if the school is registered for a specific purpose
- if the school is a specialist school, or
- for other reasons determined by the VRQA

Thomastown Meadows Primary School has previously received an exemption for the period of 12 months, Under Regulation 61 of the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic).

Thomastown Meadows Primary School implements the Victorian Curriculum F-10 Languages and reports on student learning against the achievement standards set out in the curriculum.

Thomastown Meadows Primary School offers all students the opportunity to learn Auslan through an immersion program alongside Performing Arts.

Auslan (Australian Sign Language) is the language of the Deaf community of Australia and is descended from British Sign Language (BSL). Auslan and other signed languages around the world are fully-fledged languages that are visual-gestural in nature. They have a complete set of linguistic structures and are complex and highly nuanced.

Thomastown Meadows Primary School recognises that learning a language is a sequential and cumulative process and that students learn most effectively through frequent, regular engagement over an extended period of time and opportunities to practise and meaningfully use the language in authentic situations.

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 Auslan curriculum has two interrelated strands, Communicating and Understanding, which are further divided into sub-strands. The Auslan curriculum recognises that there are different entry points into language learning, which reflects current language teaching practice. There are two possible learning sequences:

- F–10 sequence for students who begin to learn the language in primary school and continue to Year 10.

Thomastown Meadows Primary School acknowledges that students are learning Auslan as second Language Learners or additional language learners. Our students are being introduced to Auslan for the first time as an additional language.

Thomastown Meadows has made a decision about which pathway best serves our students' needs, and teachers will use this pathway to cater for students by making any appropriate adjustments to differentiate their learning experiences.

Policy review

Policy written updated	School Council approved	Review date	Responsibility
February 2017	N/A	February 2021	Learning Specialist