



### Help for Non-English Speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Kalinda Primary School on (03) 9876 3289.

## LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH POLICY

### PURPOSE

In order to maintain registration with the VRQA, Kalinda Primary School (Kalinda PS) must meet the minimum standards for school registration, which include provision of languages education across all year levels.

At Kalinda PS we believe that Language Other Than English (LOTE) fosters a student's ability to think and reflect about the working of language and develops mental flexibility and problem-solving strategies. Language and intercultural skills allow ready global communication.

At Kalinda PS, our chosen LOTE is Japanese.

Through our Japanese Program we aim to:

- enable speakers of English to gain some proficiency in speaking, reading and writing Japanese
- enable learners to demonstrate an understanding of simple verbal and written instructions in Japanese
- appreciate and respect the views of others and the way of life, culture and thought in Japan
- further develop self-awareness and a sense of personal and cultural identity
- promote interaction with Japanese people via the LOTE staff, Japanese interns, visitors to Kalinda PS and Japanese students from リリーベール小学校 Lilyvale Shogako (Primary School) Mito, Japan.

### POLICY

#### Effective learning

Learning a language is a sequential and cumulative process. Students learn most effectively through:

- frequent, regular lessons including those conducted entirely in the target language
- engagement over an extended period
- opportunities to practise and meaningfully use the language in authentic situations.

At Kalinda PS our language program is:

- primarily aimed at developing proficiency in the target language
- taught by a qualified teacher of the language
- delivered for a minimum of 150 minutes per week, spread as evenly as possible across the week
- strongly supported by the school community, including by the school administration, staff, parents and students and appropriate partnerships
- resourced to an appropriate level, comparable with other learning areas in the school
- flexible in its approach to delivery and resourcing, including changing from year to year as required
- part of a planned pathway for languages learning.

Continuity and frequency of language learning will contribute significantly to a student gaining proficiency in the language.

#### School and community commitment

Kalinda PS develops its language program through transparent consultation, so that we ensure the school and broader community are informed about the benefits of languages education. This builds support and commitment for the program and enable its long-term viability. Our commitment to the Japanese language program is also developed through embedding languages learning into the culture of the school.



### **Flexible Approaches, Pathways and Partnerships**

Greater collaboration between schools, in and across clusters, allows Kalinda PS to share resources and ideas. It also creates languages learning pathways for students moving between schools in a locality or in the transition from primary to secondary education. Kalinda PS will foster locally developed strategies, including blended learning, can also sustain language programs.

Kalinda PS has a flexible approach to languages delivery to sustain the Japanese language program through short term or year-to-year issues, particularly in relation to staffing. Every effort is made to provide continuity for the Japanese language program when short term issues arise.

Programs which are linked to other schools or have external support are more likely to be continued. Kalinda PS's sister school relationship, where connections are made around the Japanese Language Program provides further support and motivation for both students and staff to engage fully with the Japanese Language Program.

### **Student Motivation and Engagement**

Motivation is a consistently strong predictor of successful language learning.

At Kalinda PS we encourage student motivation and engagement with our Japanese Language Program by:

- recognising and valuing parents, school leadership, teachers and the wider community
- recognising and celebrating student achievement within the school and broader community
- helping students understand the cognitive, social and practical benefits of learning a language
- helping students understand the the language they are learning is for authentic, meaningful communication
- giving students specific goals for Japanese language learning
- giving students regular opportunities to practice Japanese in a supportive environment where fluency rather than accuracy is the initial aim
- building student interest in and understanding of the culture associated with the language.

### **Implementation**

At Kalinda PS the Languages Other than English (LOTE) domain (Japanese Languages Program) has two strands: Communicating and Understanding.

- In **Communicating language**, students will focus on using the Japanese language to inform, create, socialize, translate and reflect.
- In **Understanding language**, the focus is on a student's ability to understand language as a system and to develop an understanding about the role of language and culture.

### **Japanese Sister School Relationship**

Kalinda PS has developed, and is actively working to maintain, a 'sister school' relationship with リリーベール小学校 Lilyvale Shogako (Primary School) Mito, Japan through the 'Branch Out Exchange Program'. Other schools nearby to Kalinda PS may also participate in this program from year to year.

Kalinda PS will host students from Lilyvale Primary School every second year, with Lilyvale Shogako hosting Kalinda PS students every alternate year. Exchange visits may not occur every year, depending on extenuating circumstances. In each instance, students are hosted by school families and will attend a range of classes across the school sharing cultural information and allowing students to have authentic language experiences. These trips also include visiting relevant cultural monuments and events.

A Kalinda Primary School teacher is also part of any exchange group that visits Japan as part of this program.

Each year, 'Branch Out Ambassadors' are chosen from Grades 3 and 4. These students act as ambassadors for the Japanese Language Program, sharing events and information with the school community at assembly and Japanese events.



Kalinda Primary School No. 5121

In alternating years, the school will host a Japanese night or day. The Japanese night invites families to participate in a range of Japanese cultural activities and for the students who visited Lilyvale Primary School to share their experiences with the wider school community. The Japanese Day encourages students to learn about and actively engage with Japanese cultural events and the Japanese language.

A Japanese intern is fostered annually and participates in teaching activities with the LOTE teachers. The intern coordinator introduces a new intern, advertises for host families and organise the stay.

#### COMMUNICATION

Regular communication with students, families and the community about the Japanese Language Program and the partnership with Lilyvale Primary School will be through the Kalinda PS newsletter and website.

#### RELATED LEGISLATION

- [Education and Training Reform Act 2006 \(Vic\)](#)
- [Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 \(Vic\)](#)
- [VRQA guidelines to the Minimum Standards](#)

#### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	March 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	March 2026