St John’s Grammar
Junior School

Indonesian
Language and Culture
Policy

2011

To be reviewed: 2013
“India, China and other Asian nations are growing and their influence in the world is increasing. Australians need to become ‘Asia literate’, engaging and building strong relationships with Asia.”

Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (December 2008)
Introduction

In 2011, St John’s Grammar School developed a bi-lingual Indonesian language program with teachers learning alongside students and incorporating their learned knowledge into the classroom, whole school and wider community activities. This document provides the rationale, aims, outcomes and assessment of the program.

Rationale

Up until 2000, Italian was the language taught – one lesson per week for students R-6. Japanese was introduced in 2001 as a demonstration of the school’s understanding of the importance of acknowledging the region in which we live and trade. However, the language component was only offered to Year 5 and 6 students, while the Year 3 and 4 students had Cultural Studies lessons. This language program did not include students from Reception to Year 4.

From 2011 onwards St John’s Grammar School students in Reception to Year 6 will be involved in the Indonesian language and culture program for two lessons each week. Classroom teachers join their students for one lesson per week. Administration and support staff are provided with the opportunity to learn Indonesian during staff meetings and other specified training and development days. As stated in Teaching Languages in the Primary School “A language program is most successful when the whole school understands and supports its purpose and operation” (pg. 38, J.Browett, 2006). In order to enhance the students’ language learning experience, classroom teachers incorporate this language into everyday routines and activities. Whole school and community based activities provide further learning experiences for the students, as well as the opportunity for parents to engage in the Indonesian language and culture. Students are able to continue learning Indonesian in the Middle and Senior School.

The Indonesian program was implemented for a variety of reasons. It has been stated that many Asian countries are growing and their influence in the world is increasing. It is important for our school communities to become ‘Asia literate’, engaging and building strong relationships with Asia (Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians, December 2008). St John’s aims to work collaboratively across the school community to build a shared vision and commitment to developing an Asia literate curriculum in line with the Australian Curriculum (Leading 21st Century Schools: Engage with Asia).
Aims/ Outcomes

It is anticipated that through learning about the Indonesian language and culture in a bilingual community students will:

- Learn to communicate in Indonesian for a variety of purposes;
- Acquire, maintain and extend the knowledge, skills and strategies to communicate effectively in Indonesian;
- Respect and understand their own culture and the cultures of others;
- Be introduced to other ways of thinking and communicating;
- Develop an interest in and take pleasure in learning Indonesian;
- Use Indonesian and English interchangeably during lessons, school activities and in the wider community.

Students will cover a wide range of topics throughout each year level. These topics will integrate language and culture. Aims and outcomes for these topics are currently drawn from the South Australian Curriculum and Accountability Framework (SACSA). In 2012, the Indonesian language section of the Australian Curriculum will be introduced and the current aims and outcomes for each unit of work will be altered accordingly.

Assessment/ Reporting

Students are assessed in a variety of ways throughout the year. Parents receive a report outlining student progress and the end of Terms 2 and 4. Other forms of assessment that are used during the year include:

- End of Term written topic tests for students in Years 3-6.
- Fortnightly vocabulary tests (10 words) for students in Years 5-6.
- Regular oral tests, focusing on correct pronunciation and intonation.
- Observational assessments.
- Rubrics, checklists and criteria grids for major assignments.
- Self and peer assessment and reflection.

When learning a language it is important for the students to receive feedback immediately in order to gain confidence and correct mistakes if necessary.

Action Plan - 2011 onwards

Students will continue to engage in a variety of Indonesian language and culture based activities both within the classroom and in the wider school community. When moving from the Junior School in to the Middle and Senior School students will be provided with the opportunity to continue developing their language skills in the Year 7-12 Indonesian program.