Japanese Curriculum 2015 OLR

All students from Prep to Year 6 participate in Japanese classes for one hour per week.

The aims of Japanese learning at our school are to foster cultural appreciation and develop Japanese language communication skills. This follows the Australian Curriculum for languages, which is divided into the strands of communicating and understanding (http://www.acara.edu.au/verve/_resources/20141015_Languages_-_Japanese_-_Validation_for_public_viewing_September_2014.pdf).

Communication skills include speaking, listening, reading and writing. Gestures are another aspect of communication used to assist in making meaning from Japanese language.

Cultural understanding
Learning activities are based on what is happening in Japan at the moment—there is a major celebration almost every month of the year. Cultural practices relevant to the term topic are taught, such as using chopsticks, bowing and manners in Japan. In addition, students learn about Japanese religions, historical traditions, everyday life, and other cultural phenomenon they are interested in. Students of all year levels compare and contrast their lives with those of Japanese people.

Speaking and listening
Every lesson students are expected to practise speaking in Japanese and actively listening to understand Japanese. This can take the form of songs, games, repetition of new language, stories, questions and answers and general classroom dialogue (answering their name for the roll, standing when asked, asking to borrow stationery). Conversation skills are built through learning and remembering these basic interactions.

Reading and writing
Prep students begin by making kanji numbers with their bodies, on iPads, and out of play doh. In Year 4, students begin learning hiragana characters—the basic Japanese alphabet. By Year 6, students are able to distinguish between and use all Japanese scripts (romaji, hiragana, katakana and kanji). Upper year level students develop their Japanese literacy by learning gradually more complex language to express themselves, in a variety of purposeful tasks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparatory</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
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<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to Japan and Japanese. Numbers one to ten.</td>
<td>Names of modes of transport. Say how they came to school.</td>
<td>Introduce themselves (name, age, likes). Say ages of others.</td>
<td>Animal names (zodiac animals, pets, zoo animals).</td>
<td>Say how many people in your family; family members. Hiragana.</td>
<td>Talking about food and drinks; Japanese food and eating customs; likes, dislikes.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term 2</strong></td>
<td>Animal names in Japanese. Say which animal you like.</td>
<td>Animals-they like; describe animals as big or small.</td>
<td>Say their birthday. Sing Happy Birthday. Know how to say months and days.</td>
<td>Describe animals (big, small, what they eat, and body parts).</td>
<td>Describe family members’ name, age, likes, and appearance. Hiragana.</td>
<td>Describe foods (delicious, yucky, hot, and cold); say what you eat / ate.</td>
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