Philosophical Basis:
The AusVELS domain ‘Languages’ is directly relevant to the development of communication skills and literacy. It arouses metalinguistic awareness, promotes cognitive growth and divergent thinking and also enriches the students’ appreciation of a multicultural society. There are also considerable long term benefits in mastering a second language, particularly in terms of improved access to university placements, widening future career opportunities and affording more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and a better ear for listening.

Guidelines:
- Skills in the key areas of language learning: speaking and listening, reading and writing will be developed through learning a language other than English.
- Attitudes, beliefs and values in a multicultural, multilingual community will be nurtured.
- A variety of means and activities to enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of an additional language will be provided.
- A smooth transition from Primary to Secondary Languages programs will be facilitated where possible.
- Students will be engaged in real conversations in everyday transactions in familiar situations through imitating and adapting models.
- Students will be encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards Mandarin, and find enjoyment in learning the Mandarin language and about Chinese culture.
- Students will be encouraged to engage in using ICT as a Chinese language learning tool in a positive and familiar learning environment.

Implementation:
- The Languages program will follow the AusVELS guidelines, annotated work samples and compendium, drawing content from across the curriculum and enriching the current classroom topics.
- Planning will take into account the whole school Scope and Sequence.
- Differentiated learning through three language competency groups at each grade level from Years 2-6 will be implemented to cater for and extend individual learning.
- The initial focus of the program will target oral/aural language skills, subsequently broadening to include reading and writing activities.
- Classroom teachers will be encouraged to follow up, through vocabulary repetition and classroom displays where appropriate, to maximise the use of the language.
- Ongoing communication will take place with regard to program evaluation and where needed, any individual student’s progress.
- Professional development will be undertaken as and when appropriate.
- Other rich cultural activities including Mandarin Extension Class, Asian Dance, Lion Dance, Chinese Culture Club and Chinese Traditional Drums will be offered to students to encourage them to extend their Languages learning and understandings.
- Ongoing use of ICT applications will be available during Chinese lessons.

Evaluation:
Evaluation will be ongoing through the use of:
- Language skills checklists, anecdotal records and observation
- Work samples of individual students
- Reflective journals of individual students
- Parent survey
- This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the policy review cycle.

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