

JAPANESE (Languages) PROGRAM

Specialist LOTE (Languages Other Than English) Program

Japanese at Swanbourne Primary is taught with a focus on enjoyment and participation to encourage language use that is as extensive and comprehensive as possible.

Students from Years 3-6 learn Japanese once a week in the Japanese classroom. In each lesson, students are given opportunities to speak, write and read Japanese with a focus on the three Japanese scripts: hiragana, katakana and kanji.

Students are encouraged both to communicate in Japanese (which encompasses the five strands of Socialising; Informing; Creating; Translating; and Reflecting) as well as to understand Japanese (which includes the three strands of Systems of Language; Language Variation and Change; and Role of Language and Culture).



Teaching Approach

Wherever practical, authentic texts and Japanese realia are used to stimulate discussion about aspects of Japanese language and culture. Online resources such as YouTube clips and relevant websites are utilised to make learning as authentic as possible.

Learning a language requires students to take risks and be able to ask questions to develop confidence in their own skills. Students are encouraged to have-a-go and play with language from the very beginning of their Japanese learning journey. They are also provided with opportunities to make links between their own language or cultural experiences and those that are relevant to Japan and the Japanese language.



Events and Activities

At Swanbourne Primary, we value the opportunity for students to use their Japanese language skills and explore aspects of the Japanese culture as often as possible. For this reason, throughout the year, we welcome groups of Japanese exchange students into the school and every year interested families are invited to host a Japanese primary school child in their home.

When Japanese visitors come to the school, students are encouraged to use their Japanese language skills with our guests and to participate in a variety of cultural activities. In 2019 we enjoyed a visit from Tyke-Oh who provided students with a Japanese taiko workshop.



Events and Activities

Japan is a country that values the many festivals and ceremonial events occurring throughout the year. In the Japanese classroom, students examine a variety of festivals including Oshogatsu, Kodomo no Hi, Hinamatsuri, Ohanami and Obon.

To acknowledge this, throughout the year, Swanbourne students participate in a variety of Japanese activities, including origami, Japanese calligraphy, kimono, kamifusen, kendama, Japanese sports and cooking.

