
Home Language Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a 'Home Language'?

A home language is the language(s) spoken at home between child and family members, this can also be termed a 'mother tongue language'.

Does the child need to be fluent in the home language?

No, there is not a need for complete written and spoken fluency, but an understanding and basic level of communication in this language needs to be present so they can enjoy and participate in these sessions.

When and where does the program take place?

The program takes place every second Tuesday morning from 09.00 – 09.30, following our weekly assembly. Children are assigned to specific classrooms where language groups work together.

Are these language lessons?

These are not language lessons where children are taught specific language, grammar, or written skills. These sessions are designed to be opportunities for students to interact and engage with others in their home language.

Who facilitates the home language sessions?

The sessions are facilitated by teachers, educators, parents, and secondary school student volunteers according to their home language. As this is a new initiative, in some cases the facilitator may not speak the home language of their group. We still are looking for volunteers for some languages.

Is there a curriculum for the home language program?

No, there is no formal curriculum for the home language program. The purpose is to foster and value the languages which make up our school community, and to enable our students to communicate in their home language. Suggested tasks and activities will be provided for every session, however these are optional, and groups can come up with their own ideas based on their interests.

How are groups arranged?

Groups are arranged according to the home language of the child and are mixed age levels Grade 1 – 6. Activities given are appropriate for all ages and group sizes vary from 2 – 15 students. Groups are assigned a classroom and depending on the size of the group, may share a classroom with another home language group.

How can I support this program?

Parents of all languages (including the school languages of German and English) can volunteer to facilitate a group. We are still looking for volunteers in some languages. If you also would like to send in materials (books or games) in your home language, we welcome this as these can be used to support the sessions.

Do I need to come to every session if I volunteer?

It would be preferable for parent volunteers and staff members to attend every session so that you can get to know your groups. However, if you are unable to come to any sessions, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can arrange for alternative provision.

Who do I contact for further information and to answer any questions I may have?

Please contact our Home Language Coordinators for further information.