

Deutsche Schule Melbourne - A German English Bilingual School

Deutsche Schule Melbourne: a German English bilingual school in North Fitzroy

The vision for children at DSM is to live and learn two cultures, preparing our students to become involved citizens of an increasingly global world.



The school caters for any families interested in providing their children with the opportunity to learn a second language as one of their mother tongues. Children joining the school are not expected to speak German. The program is tailored to assist all children in the acquisition of both the German and English languages.

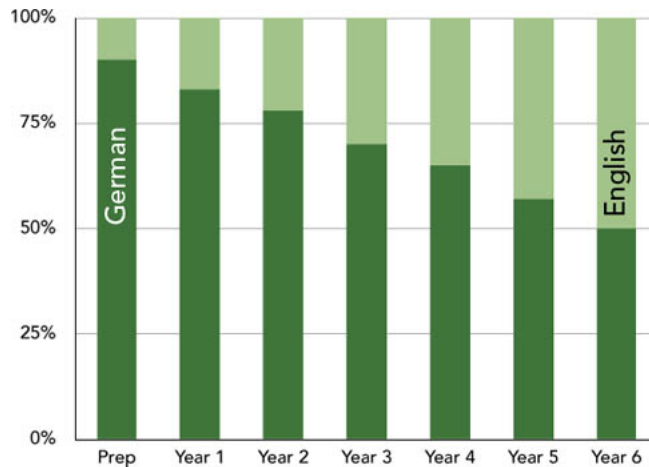
Early Immersion Program

Based on the highly successful Canadian early immersion primary school model, children at DSM are immersed in both English and German from their first day of school onwards. Similar to the acquisition of language from birth, they learn the two languages in a playful, secure and supportive environment. Our trained immersion teachers speak to the children exclusively in their mother tongues and the children are free to respond in whichever language they prefer.

Children at DSM learn to read and write in German and English concurrently. In Prep and Year 1, 80-90% of classes are taught in German. By Years 6, the proportion of English increases to 50%. In Years 11 and 12 students prepare for their bilingual International Baccalaureate, which involves testing in English and German.

This approach to literacy and early immersion education repeatedly results in near-native or native written, analytical and spoken competencies in both languages.

Target development of language of instruction



Curriculum

The DSM curriculum fulfills the requirements of both the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) and German (Thuringia) curricula. This assists students who may need to transfer to another Australian or German school. DSM is accredited by the Australian government as an Independent School and by the German government as a Deutsche Auslandsschule.

The benefits of early bilingualism

In addition to having increased sensitivity towards other languages and cultures, bilingual children have been shown to develop superior analytical and problem-solving abilities. They also have a keen sense of language, enabling them to easily learn additional mother tongues and be highly creative in their own language expression. This keenly developed understanding of language, problem-solving and the social and communication needs of others enables them to truly be involved citizens in our global community.



A vibrant community

The school is an integral part of both the local and German-speaking communities. Within the school, there is a strong sense of belonging among the students' families. Each year the school holds a number of cultural activities, in which the local and German-speaking communities take part. DSM is more than simply an educational institution for the children. It is the ideal environment to live and learn two cultures.



Support the school!

DSM is a not for profit association based on a strong membership. Members support the school by electing or being elected to the school board and participating in various school working groups. Members can also use the German/English library of DSM and are invited to our academic and cultural events. Children of DSM members are considered with priority for enrolment.

Annual membership fees are \$27.50 for one person or \$55 for the whole family.

Sponsorship

Organisations can support the school directly by entering a sponsorship agreement. Please contact Barbara Walsh for further details.

Donations

Deutsche Schule Melbourne operates the following gift funds that can accept your kind donations:

DSM Scholarship Fund
DSM Library Fund
DSM Building Fund

You can find donations forms on our website.

All donations over \$2 are tax-deductable.

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An opportunity to grow up bilingually

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