

Will learning in Chinese affect my child's English language and literacy development?

Many parents/caregivers are initially fearful that bilingual education may have a negative impact on their child's English language development. But research consistently finds that the bilingual education actually enhances English language development (Cloud, Genesee, & Hamayan, 2000).

Parents/caregivers are often surprised to learn that research has shown that the 'effect of learning a second language on first-language skills has been positive in all studies done' (Bournot-Trites & Tellowitz, 2002).

Who can participate?

The Chinese bilingual program at Plympton International College is open to all students regardless of their background and is designed for students with a wide range of abilities.

International research has shown that multi-lingual children also benefit from bilingual teaching because they are already accustomed to learning new languages (Wode 1995).

Do I need to speak Chinese?

Parents/caregivers are not expected to speak or understand Chinese in order to send their child to Plympton International College.

Parents/caregivers can help their child by supporting and encouraging their overall learning and the use of Chinese outside of school through a range of activities, such as:

- * having their child teach them some Chinese language
- * downloading a languages app to support language learning
- * showing an interest in Chinese language and culture
- * exploring Chinese events, music, films, books and games.

Like more information?

Contact the school to arrange a visit.



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Government of South Australia
Department for Education



**Plympton
International College**

Bilingual education



Benefits for your child



**South Australia's
first Chinese and English bilin-
gual college...
A world of opportunities!**

Why bilingual?

Bilingual programs are the most effective type of language and intercultural learning program. Most bilingual students can be expected to reach higher levels of second language proficiency than students in other school-based language programs.

Becoming bilingual opens the door to communication with more people in more places, and many parents/ caregivers want to provide their children with skills to interact competently in a global society.

In addition to the social and economic advantages, bilingual learners also benefit cognitively, showing greater non-verbal problem-solving abilities and more flexible thinking.

What are the benefits of bilingual education?

Contemporary research and practice have established a clear link between the learning of languages and improved cognitive skills and flexibility in reasoning.

Academic benefits

Higher:

- * academic achievement in school
- * levels of second language proficiency

Cognitive benefits

Increased:

- * mental flexibility and processing capacity
- * levels of critical thinking and problem solving skills
- * flexible thinking abilities and enhanced creativity
- * ability to concentrate

Social benefits

Increased understanding:

- * of different linguistic and cultural perspectives and practices
- * of the role of language and culture in communication
- * of their own personal identity and heritage

What does the bilingual program at Plympton International College look like?

- * All Reception to year 2 students have a daily lesson of Chinese as another language. The focus in the early years is on developing strong English literacy skills that will support cross-language transfer in the bilingual program (Riches & Gene-see 2006).
- * All year 3 and year 4 students participate in a bilingual program – developing skills in English and Chinese through integrated learning in Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Health and Physical Education and Chinese language.
- * The bilingual program expands to include year 5 students in 2019, with year 6 in 2020 and year 7 in 2021.
- * Year 8 and 9 students participate in a daily lesson of Chinese.
- * Chinese language learning is also offered at Stage 1 and Stage 2 SACE.
- * All our teachers plan, teach, assess and report on students' learning using the Australian Curriculum/SACE, in line with other South Australian schools.