



Newlands Approach to Language Learning

In an ever changing world, Newlands Primary School (NPS) is dedicated and committed to providing an innovative and engaging learning environment that adapts to our ever changing world. The school provides a curriculum that encourages students to learn about different cultures, to become inspired and aware of differences and to critically and creatively think about the world around them. The evidence informs us that if our students are globally aware, students will be able to build their own values and belief systems to positively impact the world around them.

A second language to communicate, to understand and to engage in a global sense, further highlights, the school's commitment to creating global citizens. Not only is their strong evidence in the positive impact a second language can have on the first language, it further provides a solid foundation for students to become plurilingual allowing for further opportunities in a Newlands Primary School's students future.

At NPS, students are exposed to learning experiences in both English and Spanish. The school follows the Victorian Curriculum allowing students to learn educational concepts 50% in English and 50% in Spanish. This ultimately means that students will develop their strategies of reading, writing and mathematical concepts in both languages. Our inquiry units, allow Newlands to design these concepts through a topic that links to the world around us.

There are currently a small number of primary schools offering bilingual education in Victoria, Newlands is the only Spanish Bilingual Immersion Program in Victoria using the CLIL (Content Language Integrated Learning) method to deliver our curriculum.

Why Spanish?

Spanish has the second highest number of native speakers worldwide and is one of the most widely understood languages in the world. Spanish is the main language in over 21 countries, the official language of most of Latin America and one of the official languages of the United Nations. The ability to speak Spanish allows for a wide range of opportunities in the commercial, educational and hospitality fields in a number of countries across the world.

Newlands Primary School's dedication to providing a Spanish Immersion program is further strengthened by Coburg High School which continues to provide the language as an option at secondary school. While having a strong understanding of Spanish will help considerably if learning Italian, French or Portuguese (to name a few), having a second language has helped create the building blocks needed when learning any new language.

Benefits from Bilingual Education

Bilingual education has shown to have many benefits for students and school communities. Students who undertake bilingual education have been shown to perform at above average levels academically. Bialystok (2016) wrote in their research that teachers noticed improved focus, concentration and ability to undertake tasks in more detail. In 2012 Bialystok, Craik, and Luk, wrote that bilingual people sometimes have an advantage, as well as sustained attention and have 'mental flexibility' meaning they have the ability to adapt to ongoing changes and process. This means that as a lifelong learner at Newlands, students will benefit from developing an open mind disposition.

Klein (2013) noted that the age at which children learn a new language can have a significant and positive impact on the adult brain structure. In addition Klein (2013) suggested that with an early introduction of language it will ensure more probability of proficiency in the language acquired. Furthermore, Rankine (2016), pointed to the economic benefits of Australians learning a second language to effectively participate in a globalised world.

A study conducted at the University of Auburn in 2016 found that when learning another language, you also have the opportunity to learn about their cultures which helps you have a broader perspective and view of the world. Therefore, leading to an increased understanding and appreciation on cultural diversity. Creese (2010) has noted that children who normalise a second language go beyond merely acceptance to cultivation of a world view perspective.

Below are some research links and articles:

- <https://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/9183/20130831/learning-new-language-has-significant-impact-on-brain-structure.htm>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/18/opinion/sunday/the-benefits-of-bilingualism.html>
- https://www.ted.com/talks/mia_nacamulli_the_benefits_of_a_bilingual_brain
- Source: Baker, C. (2014), A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism (Fourth Edition), Multilingual Matters, Bristol, UK, pp50-51.

What does learning look like at NPS?

At Newlands the Literacy and Numeracy curriculum is delivered in both Spanish and English. In addition to other areas that may deliver specific lesson in Spanish, such as Music. Therefore, students have two teachers, a teacher that will deliver parts of the curriculum in English and another for Spanish. When teachers plan as a team, decision are made on what concepts of the curriculum will be taught in English and what concepts will be taught in Spanish. Thus, very few concepts are taught in both languages.

Useful Spanish Learning Resources

To help you and your child familiarise yourselves with the Spanish Language, below are some resources for you and your child to explore the wonderful world of the Spanish Language. Some of these are free apps or websites, some might have a cost, you are under no obligation to purchase any resource.

- Arbol ABC Website: Spanish games, songs, stories, numbers and vocabulary.
<https://arbolabc.com/>
- Spanish School Bus for Kids App: Spanish games, numbers and vocabulary.
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/spanish-school-bus-for-kids/id642466531>
- Rockalingua: Spanish games, songs, stories.
<https://rockalingua.com/>
- YouTube search for:
 - El Mono Sílabo
 - Basho & Friends
 - Pocoyo in Spanish

The team at NPS are looking forward to seeing your Spanish adventure start and grow!