

Fact sheet for schools – Restoration of mandatory languages in Years 6, 7 and 8

Timeframes for implementation

- The Minister has requested that the majority of schools (approximately 90 per cent) be delivering Key Learning Area (KLA) Languages for all Year 6, 7 and 8 students, from the first day of school in 2011.
- The department recognises that some schools will need a longer preparation time, and expects that during 2011 those schools will undertake planning to be able to deliver language studies to their Year 6, 7 and 8 students by January 2012.
- Due to the unique nature of their programs, special schools, Milpera State High School, Brisbane Youth Education and Training Centre, and Cleveland Education and Training Centre will not be required to provide mandatory language studies for all Year 6 to 8 students.

Australian Languages Curriculum

- The new Australian Curriculum for languages (part of Phase Two of the Australian Curriculum) is expected to be developed and released in 2011 for Prep (K)–10. An implementation schedule for Queensland schools is yet to be decided.
- As the national curriculum is developed over the next few years, schools will be required to use this new curriculum when it becomes available in the language/s offered in their school.
- Where there is no Australian Languages Curriculum in a particular language, schools will continue to follow a Queensland Languages Curriculum.

Choice of language/s

- Each school principal will determine the languages taught in Years 6, 7 and 8, in collaboration with the school community, and in response to student needs.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are important in some communities and will be recognised as an option for mandatory study in Years 6, 7 and 8. From 2011, the Queensland Syllabus for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages will be available for implementation in state schools.
- Auslan (Australian Sign Language) will be recognised as an option for mandatory study where it is an appropriate option for the school community.

Languages in other year levels

- The provision of languages in other year levels (P – 5; 9 – 12) is a decision that is made at the discretion of each school principal, based on the needs of the student cohort and the community.

Continuity

- Primary schools and destination state secondary schools need to work together to ensure that when students enter high school, they can continue to study the same language they have been studying in primary school.

Hours of study

- Principals need to apply the recommended KLA Languages Curriculum [hours of study](#). Only in legitimate exceptional circumstances will schools not be required to adopt the recommended hours of study.

Exemptions

- [Exemptions](#) from language studies may be granted to individual students where it is in the best interests of a particular student to undertake an alternative learning program.
- Language study is to be considered a priority so that exemptions are to be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and principals and parents will have to approve such exemptions. Decisions will be made very carefully on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with parents, the student and teachers.
- Schools will be required to keep a record of individual students who are exempted, and regularly review any exemptions. Exemptions will be monitored by regions and the department.

For more information on languages in Years 6, 7 and 8 and resources that are available to support languages in schools, visit the department's [website](#).