



DEUTSCHE SCHULE MELBOURNE
A German English Bilingual School

School Strategic Plan 2010 - 2013

Environmental Context

Deutsche Schule Melbourne (DSM) is located in the leafy inner city suburb of North Fitzroy, approximately 5km from the centre of Melbourne, on the grounds of the former St Joseph's College. The site is also home to a number of local artist, community and religious groups from the Catholic Church. The school attracts students from all over Melbourne and the surrounding suburbs due to its unique German English bilingual program. It also attracts international students who are attending the school while their parents are working or studying in Australia.

The school opened its doors in 2008 and commenced with 15 students. In that year the classes ranged from prep to grade 2. In 2009 enrolments were close to 30 and in 2010 the enrolments are projected to remain the same. It is anticipated that enrolments will increase by 10 or more students each year, with the majority of students enrolling in the prep year. DSM is a not for profit organisation 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.

Inspired by 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 staff speak to the children exclusively in their mother tongues and the children are free to respond in whichever language they prefer.

The DSM curriculum fulfils 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 German International School. Students in Years 11 and 12 will be prepared for their bilingual International Baccalaureate.

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 5 and 6, the proportion of English increases to 50%. This approach to literacy and early immersion education repeatedly results in near-native or native written, analytical and spoken competencies in both languages.

Through its unique innovative bilingual model, the DSM provides a framework for academic excellence. A stimulating and encouraging environment provides a foundation for enjoying lifelong learning. This allows children to develop important social and personal skills and confident personalities. We understand holistic education as the promotion of social, intercultural and personal competencies in all students, whilst meeting the highest quality academic standards. Our vision is for children at the DSM to live and learn two or more cultures, preparing them to become involved citizens of the world.

DSM considers itself a part of the Australian community. As such, it is important to involve our students with the wider community. For instance, interschool sports activities in the years 4, 5 & 6 will be conducted in conjunction with other local primary schools. The school offers a range of after school activities such as Dance, Yoga, and Tennis where members from the local community teach the students. The school does not have its own before or after care program, but utilises the aftercare program from another local Primary School in the area.

DSM is linked with the German Trinity Church in East Melbourne and also the German Catholic Church in Camberwell. While the school is non denominational, the German Trinity Church provides religious education to students who have an interest in the subject.

School Profile

Purpose	Values	Environmental Context
To prepare students to live and learn in two cultures (German and English) through a bilingual and bicultural educational model so that students are responsible members of both local and international communities.	The school caters for families who are interested in providing their children with the opportunity to learn a second language to the standard of a "mother tongue" language.	Deutsche Schule Melbourne is a new German English Bilingual school in North Fitzroy. Children live and learn two languages and cultures by following an immersion model where they learn to speak, read and write in German and English concurrently. The school follows the curriculum of both the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) and Thuringia and is supported by a vibrant parent community.

Strategic Intent

	Goals	Key Improvement Strategies
Student Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to provide excellent bilingual and bicultural (German/English) learning opportunities holistically To further develop students who are confident, responsible citizens, able to operate successfully in local, Australian and global contexts To further develop individualised learning programs to cater for all learning backgrounds and levels 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and register 5/6 Curriculum Investigate 3rd language Maintain German and Australian culture, events, celebrations Increase opportunities for children to present their work in writing or orally Establish intensive language courses in English/German for students with little or no knowledge of either language Establish support program in literacy and numeracy Develop further ways to involve parents in the learning process Improve relationships with local community
Student Engagement and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop consistency with student behaviour management that reflects the school's mission to build respect for others and provide an encouraging and caring environment To improve student connectedness To further strengthen the school/parent partnership in order to improve student engagement and wellbeing To continue to maintain and improve the school's facilities, buildings and grounds 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review and develop implementation of welfare and discipline policies Develop programs that improve resiliency and student connectedness Establish a parent council that is fully engaged with Board/teachers/students/parents Investigate impact of growth on current building, ground, facilities, educational resources Successfully implement BER programs
Student Pathways and Transitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide successful pathways for students from different backgrounds To develop a successful transition process for students during primary school and after Year 6 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain transition in programs and investigate opportunities to expand Investigate partnerships with secondary schools Investigate IB from primary through to secondary schools Develop transition program for Year 6