

Rationale

The Deutsche Schule Melbourne – A German International School aims to create and maintain a learning environment that facilitates development of the whole child, in a bilingual and multicultural environment to become independent, responsible and socially active. Teachers will cater for students with different learning abilities, interest and needs.

Student teaching and learning is a planned process at the Deutsche Schule Melbourne. It involves activities that are chosen partly by the teachers and partly by the students. Students reflect on their own learning strategies and communicate how they learn to others. Students are involved in the process of setting goals as well as in the evaluation process in order to become self-directed learners. Successful learning requires active participation and commitment, and requires a partnership between students, teachers, parents and carers.

Definitions

Bilingual

A bilingual person is an individual who can function in two language environments. Bilingualism is understood to be a high level of competence in speaking and reading/writing in at least two languages, but not necessarily with equal or near-equal ability. Bilingual teaching or learning involves the use of two languages for instruction and includes bi-cultural education.

One teacher – one language

A one teacher-one language model supports the early immersion model in that an expectation that a single language should be spoken with each teacher is created, minimising confusion and providing maximum opportunity for practise in the target language.

Integrated curriculum

The aim of an integrated curriculum is to develop student understandings. It involves the integration of content with skills and processes. It refers to a learning environment that views teaching and learning in a holistic way, bringing together aspects of the curriculum into meaningful association. Fundamentally, integrating the curriculum involves the integration of process and content. It allows learning to occur in the context of the exploration of the world of things, events and experiences. It also focuses on the student as a learner, developing thinking and learning skills, seeing

the relationships between areas of learning and involves students in active enquiry.

Enquiry learning

Enquiry learning is a learner-centred approach that emphasises thinking skills. Students are encouraged to gather and process information and to reach conclusions.

Principles

The Deutsche Schule Melbourne uses teaching and learning strategies that aim to:

- acknowledge current research into learning styles and cognitive processes.
- take into account current best practice in education and the specific needs of our unique school community.
- focus on the establishment of effective lifelong learning strategies.
- allow students to acquire important social and personal skills based on respect for and acceptance of others.
- build and maintain positive and supportive relationships between teachers and students.
- build the skills that are needed to work both independently and collaboratively.
- integrate current best practice and evidence from research regarding bilingualism and early immersion models of education into teaching and learning strategies.
- develop an understanding of multiculturalism.
- allow students to live and learn two or more cultures, preparing them to become involved citizens of an increasingly global world.

Goals

- To provide an environment which fosters bilingualism and biculturalism
- To support all students to develop the ability to be successful learners
- To address the individual needs of all students, acknowledging that all students learn at differing times, at different rates and in different ways
- To provide meaningful learning experiences for students
- To provide an environment to develop sustainable relationships personally, environmentally, locally and globally

Strategies

- The DSM will use an early immersion model with a one teacher-one language approach to facilitate bilingualism and multiculturalism.
- Teachers will assist students to develop effective lifelong, reflecting learning strategies through various active learning approaches including enquiry learning.
- Teachers will provide a stimulating environment that facilitates various learning situations.
- Teachers will facilitate learning individually, in pairs and/or groups in order to best facilitate the development of the student and to assist them to become successful learners.
- Integrated curriculum units will be introduced to accompany the usual lesson plans, facilitating the development of enquiry learning processes. Cross-curricular teaching methods are omnipresent and ensure a depth of learning in the key learning areas as well as high standards in the subject areas.
- Teachers at the Deutsche Schule Melbourne will be informed about current best practice and evidence in education by, for example:
 - being informed about the Principles of Teaching and Learning (Department of Education and Training, Victoria).
 - consistently participating in meaningful continuing education programs (see Professional Development Policy) as both a learner and presenter.

Date

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