

Learning Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, and Korean during the Novice and Emergent sequences immerses students in rich linguistic and cultural exploration. Students build cognitive flexibility and visual literacy as they engage with languages that use character-based or syllabic writing systems and develop intercultural understanding through respectful communication and cultural practices.

Novice 1 and 2

In Novice 1 and 2, teachers support students to build foundational skills through everyday communication and classroom routines.

Students learn to listen for familiar expressions, respond with short formulaic phrases, and participate in simple interactions.

Teachers introduce the writing system of the target language and guide students to recognise visual patterns, stroke order, and syllable blocks.

Cultural knowledge is embedded throughout, with students learning how language reflects social relationships, respect, and identity—for example, through honorifics, bowing, or respectful forms.

As students progress, they begin to connect spoken and written language with cultural context and notice how greetings, family terms, and routines vary across languages.

Emergent 1 and 2

In Emergent 1 and 2, teachers guide students to engage in short conversations and write simple texts using the writing system of the language studied.

Students begin to infer meaning from features such as radicals in Chinese, particles in Japanese, or syllable blocks in Korean.

Teachers support students to deepen their understanding of how politeness and respect are expressed through honorifics, speech levels, and forms of address.

Students build confidence using the language in authentic contexts and prepare to engage with more complex texts, conversations, and cultural perspectives in the next stage of learning.

The Learning Languages area prepares students with the knowledge and practices to access related Curriculum Subjects for Years 11–13, such as Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, and Korean