LOTE Strategic Review Synopsis

Rationale

Skills in languages provide personal, social and employment benefits. For students, quality languages education enhances understanding of their own language and culture and assists them to reflect on their identity and place in the world. It provides insights into the languages and cultures that shape their own and others’ beliefs, values and attitudes. (Dept. of Education, Training and Employment QLD)

Australia’s economic integration into Asia has accelerated significantly over the past decade and plays a significant role in the future success of economic growth for Australia. It is important that Prince of Peace educates its graduates for the future and provides our students with every opportunity to acquire the skills that will enable them to be involved in Australia’s economic and strategic focus on Asia.

Why Indonesian?

Today, Australia is the largest provider outside of Indonesia itself of Indonesian language education for school-aged children. In fact, Australia is recognised as a world leader in expertise on the Indonesian language and Indonesian language education. (ACARA curriculum statement).

- Currently the college runs Indonesian on the secondary campus with a large participation level at the optional stages on the Senior Campus (the national average is 4%).
- Teaching Indonesian at the Junior Campus would allow students to develop the basic skills earlier and allow further extension on the Senior Campus.
- ISQ has identified a shortage of Independent schools offering successful Indonesian programs. This is of concern due to the future economic links with both Asia and Indonesia.
- Christian Missionary/Faith opportunities are opened up through bi-annual Indonesian trips.
- Queensland Government identifying the need for Asian Languages from P-12 to meet the needs of the future labour market.
- Indonesian is to be embedded in a wide range of subjects that allows students to study culture and people.
- Extends the ability to communicate and extends literacy repertoires.
- Strengthens understanding of the nature of language, of culture, and of the processes of communication.
- Develops intercultural capability, develops understanding of, and respect for, diversity and difference, and an openness to different perspectives and experiences.
- Develops understanding of how values and culture shape world view and extends the learner’s understanding of themselves, their own heritage, values, culture, and identity. It can foster more reflective and imaginative dispositions in citizens, and the principles of democratic discourse, participation and opportunity which Australia proclaims also find resonance with language study since the bulk of humanity lives in societies and continues traditions forged outside of English. (Lo Bianco 2009, p. 64) 7 The Shape of the Australian Curriculum: Languages A rationale for learning languages.
- Strengthens intellectual and analytical capability and enhances creative and critical thinking.