



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

International Grammar School

At Sydney's International Grammar School, children learn a second language from pre-school as part of their curriculum.

In years one to six, students spend 400 minutes a week learning a language.

High school students learn a third language. Half of the teachers are bilingual.

Teachers work closely together and language teachers may use elements of science and other subjects in their classes.

A reconciliation program has been introduced into the school curriculum.

A scholarship is provided to a local Indigenous child annually.

Schools and diversity



Many Australian school children are learning about the benefits of living in a culturally diverse society thanks to imaginative curriculums and the enthusiasm of teachers, parents and local communities.

Hughes Primary School in Canberra and Sydney's International Grammar School, in suburban Ultimo, are two schools using inclusive activities to develop knowledge of other countries and languages.

Hughes Primary School

At Hughes Primary School in Canberra, welcome messages and room labels are written in different languages.

Teachers share cultural knowledge to help promote understanding and tolerance.

Parents help translate notes for school events, letters of information, excursions and invitations.

Regular information sessions are held with parents and English as a second language teachers who explain the Australian education system and its expectations.

The school either celebrates or acknowledges different cultural festivals, religious celebrations and national days.

A prayer room or quiet space for worship is provided for students and their families.



Classroom activities

1 What do you think might be the difficulties for students or parents from non-English speaking backgrounds?

2 List what your school does to recognise cultural diversity.

3 What could students and their families from other countries, cultures or religions contribute to school life?

