



LANGUAGE FRIENDLY SCHOOL PORTRAIT

Dulwich College Suzhou

Suzhou, China

LANGUAGE FRIENDLY
SCHOOL



Overview

LANGUAGE FRIENDLY
SCHOOL

DULWICH COLLEGE SUZHOU

- Location: Suzhou, China
- Type of school: International School 2-18 years
- Number of students: 900
- Number of staff: 100
- Languages spoken in school community: A range of different languages, with the largest represented being English, Mandarin, Korean
- Language Friendly certified since: 2021



DULWICH COLLEGE

| SUZHOU |

苏州德威外籍人员子女学校



Graduation, 2020/2021

Motivation for becoming a Language Friendly School

THEIR STORY

As an international school serving a linguistically and culturally diverse community, we want to embrace the different languages spoken amongst our students and leverage this diversity as a valuable learning resource for all. Becoming a Language Friendly School is a way for us to build on the work we have already been doing to create a more linguistically equitable and inclusive school environment. It will allow us an opportunity to create a shared understanding among students, staff, and our families about the importance of language friendly approaches, and provide momentum for us to align the practices in the three schools that make up our College: DUCKS (Nursery to Year 2), Junior School (Year 3 to Year 6), and Senior School (Year 7 to Year 13)



TRANSLANGUAGING AND THE LANGUAGE FRIENDLY APPROACH

Language Friendly

TRANSLANGUAGING

Building translinguaging pedagogical approaches is one strategic goal in the senior school this year. As part of this, we have developed a translinguaging continuum which provides a framework to support students and teachers in making intentional decisions about when, how, and why to use home languages as part of teaching and learning in subject classrooms. We see the first step as allowing students to use their home languages at school and we are now moving into the next stage of equipping teachers to opportunities within their units and lessons to encourage and enable students to draw upon their other languages. Professional development for teachers on translinguaging has been central to this approach. As a next step, we plan to see how we can adapt this approach for use with younger students in the Junior School.

Benefits

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A LANGUAGE FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Being part of the Language Friendly School network is a great opportunity to learn from others' expertise in this area so we can build on the work we have started. We hope to learn other strategies for promoting language and culture inclusion in our College.

Also, we value the opportunity to build a shared understanding that can come from the point of formal recognition. We hope that becoming a Language Friendly School can be a talking point for the whole school community to create that shared vision and promote the importance of language friendly approaches in our community. Becoming a Language Friendly School serves as a prompt to start the discussion with parents on what is being done in school and why.

Our teachers appreciate the value of language friendly approaches and are keen to learn more from other schools in the network about how they can leverage students' home languages in their classrooms.





TIPS FOR SUCCESS

**TRANSLANGUAGING AND THE
LANGUAGE FRIENDLY APPROACH IS A
WAY IN TO DIVERSIFYING THE
CURRICULUM.**

LANGUAGE FRIENDLY SCHOOL COORDINATOR AT
DULWICH COLLEGE SUZHOU





LFS in Action

**AT DULWICH
COLLEGE SUZHOU**

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our student leaders have formed a *Language, Culture, and Inclusion Committee* to investigate ways to make our school more inclusive and equitable in terms of languages and cultures, as well as finding more ways to celebrate our linguistic and cultural diversity.

ALIGNING POLICY AND PRACTICE

We have revised our school's Language Policy to ensure that it reflects best practice and current research. We have also embarked on a process to clarify our vision and to shift our policies and practices and mindsets from those rooted in monolingualism towards multilingual approaches: a more inclusive vision.

Useful Links



[Website Dulwich College Suzhou](#)

Languages

LANGUAGE SITUATION

Our students come from a wide range of different cultural backgrounds and from a variety of nationalities. Many are from expatriate families who re-located to Suzhou temporarily for employment, while others have family connections to the area. Students speak a wide range of home languages, including Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, or other dialects), Korean, English, Italian, Japanese, French, and so on.

LANGUAGES OF INSTRUCTION

Our youngest students have a dual-language Chinese-English programme, and for older students English is the language of instruction. Mandarin is taught throughout the whole school, either as a first language or second language. As well as this, Korean as a first language is also taught in the Senior School from Year 7 to Year 13, in addition to Spanish and German as foreign languages.

Language Friendly School 2020

LANGUAGE FRIENDLY

SCHOOL

Contact

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RUTU
Foundation