



# Brunswick South PRIMARY SCHOOL

*imparare insieme ♦ creare insieme ♦ vivere insieme*

## Being Bilingual @ BSPS

### values

*Our values are the moral fibre that guide our culture.*



**Constant Learning**

**Mutual Responsibility**

**Compassion**

**Sense Of Possibility**



## our context

- Victorian Government Primary School – Foundation to Year 6
- Located in Brunswick East
- Enrolment of 317 (2019) with steady growth predicted
- Low SFO = High Socio Economic area (Student Family Occupation)
- Wide catchment area (students coming as far as Diamond Creek, Laverton, West Footscray)
- Open plan and collaborative spaces
- Team teaching



## our journey

**2009:** Establishment of an Italian Bilingual School Project group

**2012:** 150 minutes of specialist subjects taught through Italian

**2012:** 150 additional minutes of Italian Literacy for Foundation

**2014:** 450 minutes of Italian for students in Foundation – Year 2

(through Literacy, Mathematics, Visual Art, Performing Arts and Science)

**2016:** 450 minutes of Italian for all students Foundation – Year 6

(through Literacy, Mathematics, Visual Art, Performing Arts and Science)

## our journey

**2017:** Beginning of formal Bilingual Accreditation

750 minutes of Italian delivered through Literacy (Reading, Writing and Speaking & Listening), Mathematics (Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability), Science, Performing Arts and Visual Arts

**2020:** Integration of all strands

Mathematics across both languages



## being bilingual

'BSPS's bilingual program means a different thing to each student. To me, it's a gateway to a different type of learning: we learn about content, culture, language and tradition. At one point, by accident, I started telling my mum about my day in Italian. On lots of people's bucket list, it says 'learn another language' and it is one of the things that doesn't get completed.

I was able to tick it off before my eighth birthday!

*Rosie – Year 5/6*



## our model



In **Literacy, (Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening)** we immerse our students in Italian language, (our Italian teachers are all native speakers), and texts that have been sourced from Italy too!

In **Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability, Science, Visual Arts and Performing Arts** we follow a CLIL type model where the content that needs to be understood is taught in Italian.

## teaching & learning

Good teaching looks the same in any language!



### La scala dell'impegno

1	2	3	4
Dai dai!	Così così	Bene	Eccellente

### La Scala del Successo



## enablers

- Community buy in and support
- Additional DET funding
- Language Assistants
- Continual reflection and refinement
- Capacity of staff (English & Italian)
- Leadership Commitment
- Our role within the system to support other schools in language learning



## barriers

- Resources (the resources we need are bespoke!)
- Availability of suitably qualified teachers (language and pedagogy)
- Time for collaboration (relationships between English and Italian counterparts)
- The level of experimentation required (there's no definitive guide on how to run a bilingual school)
- Time and patience!
- Additional administrative requirements (Visas, Recruitment, Networking)



## next steps

- Benchmarking against international standards
- Collecting longitudinal data for evidence of impact
- Establishing pathways beyond Year 6 for our students
- Strengthen our role as part of a system to support other schools with language learning



## questions

