

The Queensland LOTE (Languages other than English) initiative, mandating the study of languages in primary schools, is a function of federal policy, and is part of a major curriculum reform. Language programs are provided to all Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 state school students and schools are encouraged to teach a language from Prep to Year 12 where possible.

Spanish has been the official language program at Crestmead State School since 2017, quickly gaining popularity and success. The program focuses on Year 5 and Year 6 students, who receive one hour of Spanish instruction per week, delivered through two engaging 30-minute face-to-face sessions. The primary goal of the program is to develop 'critical fluency,' enabling students to communicate effectively in Spanish.

Spanish is a primarily phonetic language, making it easier for students to learn. It also connects with our school's structured literacy approach, helping students apply their spelling skills to language learning.

Learning a language offers cognitive benefits beyond cultural awareness, including improved memory, attention span, multitasking, analytical skills, and creative and critical thinking.

Besides cultural awareness, there are also proven cognitive advantages of learning a language. Students become better multi-taskers and improve their memory and attention span. Learning a language also strengthens analytical and reflective capabilities and enhances creative and critical thinking.

Year 5 Overview	
<p>Semester 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 -Decoding Spanish. Understand the Spanish phonemes, sounds and letters of the Spanish alphabet. Greetings – formal/ informal. Numbers up to 50. Days of the week. Unit 2 Socializing – sharing personal information. Asking questions, interrogative pronouns. Months. 	<p>Semester 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 : Describing feelings: Feelings and descriptive language in Spanish. This unit aims to teach students how to express feelings and describe people, places, and objects in Spanish. Unit 4 - Expressing Opinions and Preferences.
Assessment	
<p>Students will be assessed through their participation in class discussions, role-playing, and interactive activities, where they demonstrate their ability to engage with others in Spanish. They will also be evaluated on their use of learned vocabulary in conversations, their completion and accuracy of workbook exercises, performance on quizzes, and creativity and effort in class projects.</p>	

Year 6 Overview

Semester 1

- Unit 1: Introduction to the verb "tener" (to have). Students will learn to express opinions and preferences and describe people and places in Spanish.
- Unit 2: Telling time in Spanish, talking about locations, and asking for information effectively

Semester 2

- Unit 3: Daily routines in Spanish – Students will explore vocabulary and phrases to describe everyday activities.
- Unit 5: Discover Spanish-speaking countries and cultures – Learn the names of continents and countries in Spanish, explore the concept of "Hispanohablantes" (Spanish-speaking communities), and develop map-related vocabulary.

Assessment

Students will be assessed through their participation in class discussions, role-playing, and interactive activities, where they demonstrate their ability to engage with others in Spanish. They will also be evaluated on their use of learned vocabulary in conversations, their completion and accuracy of workbook exercises, performance on quizzes, and creativity and effort in class projects.