



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

Teaching of Mandarin in New Zealand

National context

- ♦ Devolved schooling system since 1989 – schools decide which languages they teach
- ♦ Revised New Zealand Curriculum provides framework for language learning
- ♦ Learning Languages is one of the eight key learning areas
- ♦ Ministry supports a number of international languages through resources and programmes
- ♦ Commitment to NZ's official languages: te reo Māori and New Zealand Sign Language

NZ-China Cooperation

- ♦ 6th NZ-China Joint Working Group on Education and Training (2008) – promotion of Mandarin as a joint priority
- ♦ Memorandum of Understanding on Education and Training (renewed in 2009)
 - National Language Advisor
 - Teacher Professional Development Scholarships
 - Doctoral Research Scholarships
- ♦ Arrangement on the Placement of Mandarin Teaching Aides in NZ Schools (2010)
- ♦ 7th Joint Working Group (2010)

Other support

- ♦ Curriculum resources
 - Hao! An introduction to Modern Standard Chinese
 - Hao! Supplementary Materials
- ♦ Learning Languages: Guide for NZ Schools
- ♦ Teacher Professional Development in Languages Programme Years 7-10 (TPDL)
- ♦ Language Immersion Awards for teachers

China-New Zealand Forum on Mandarin Language Teaching



*New Zealand Central, Shanghai
Tuesday 15 June 2010*

Chinese language in NZ schools resource



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Chinese language in NZ schools

A resource providing an insight into the ways some NZ schools have introduced and developed Chinese language programmes.

Why learn Chinese?



Learning a language benefits individuals, families and communities, and New Zealand as a nation.

Case studies



Case studies of New Zealand schools that run Chinese language programmes, and

Resources



Resources for students, teachers and principals

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Resources

Who are you?

Resources for schools and teachers

Resources for teachers

Resources for principals

Resources for students

Resources for schools and teachers

- New Zealand Curriculum and Supporting Resources
- Learning Languages: A Guide for New Zealand Schools
- TKI Learning Languages Forum
- Hao! An introduction to Modern Standard Chinese
- Hao! Supplementary materials
- Mandarin Language Assistants
- Local Teacher Assistants
- Chinese in Schools Facilitators

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Confucius Institute in Auckland and Chinese Language Foundation

The Chinese Language Foundation and Confucius Institute in Auckland jointly provide support for schools, teachers of Chinese and students. Their combined services are known as “Chinese in Schools”. These are available to schools that are introducing or have introduced Chinese language programmes. This support includes advice and support, introductory programmes, networking and information exchange, conferences, professional development, and online resources.

Chinese in Schools Facilitators Two facilitators work with schools to introduce and develop Chinese language programmes. They can be contacted through the websites of the [Confucius Institute in Auckland](#) or the [Chinese Language Foundation](#).

Schools’ Network Schools can participate in the [Chinese in Schools Network](#). Schools in the network can take part in Chinese Language Foundation/Confucius Institute initiatives, receive the quarterly newsletter and share teaching resources.

Online Resources Chinese in Schools provides [a number of resources online](#), including information for teachers, suggestions for student activities, and assessment. New Zealand-centred resources are being developed as an ongoing project. Teachers interested in contributing should contact the General Manager of the Confucius Institute in Auckland.

Online Email Forum The [Chinese Language Foundation online email forum](#) involves about 100 participants, mostly Chinese language teachers or heads of associations. The forum shares information, advice and tips relating to the teaching of Chinese language.

Chinese in Schools Resource Library Academic and cultural resources from the Confucius Institute in Auckland and Chinese Language Foundation can be accessed from the Confucius Institute in Auckland reading room. Resources range from text books to costumes. Schools can read or photocopy relevant sections of books or order class sets [through the Confucius Institute](#).

NZ Principals’ Delegation to China The Confucius Institute in Auckland and Chinese Language Foundation organise an [annual New Zealand Principals’ Delegation visit to China](#). Sponsored by the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) in China, this tailored trip provides the opportunity for New Zealand Principals to gain firsthand experience of Chinese culture and contemporary Chinese society.

Language and Culture Immersion Days and Camps The Chinese Language Foundation organises annual [student camps for intermediate students](#) in the greater Auckland region. It also assists schools with organising Chinese language and cultural events.

Partnering with Chinese language assistants

Henderson Intermediate has a comprehensive languages programme which requires students to choose which language they want to learn in language classes that run for two hours each week.

Henderson introduced Chinese to the languages programme two years ago. It now involves three classroom teachers supported by a Mandarin Language Assistant.



Judy

“My aim is to ensure the children are interested in not just Chinese language, but the culture as well. Otherwise there is the risk they'll lose interest.”

The value of a Chinese language assistant

The latest addition to Henderson's Chinese language programme is the arrival of a Mandarin Language Assistant.

Han Juan, or Judy, is one of six Chinese language assistants who are in New Zealand schools as part of a joint partnership between the New Zealand and Chinese Education Ministries.

Judy has been at Henderson Intermediate since March 2010 and will stay for the remainder of the school year.

The role of the language assistant

Judy's role is to help classroom teachers teach Mandarin more effectively. This involves providing information and insight into Chinese culture and language, providing accurate pronunciation and intonation and developing resources.

Judy says that she's keen for students to know more about China, “My aim is to ensure the children are interested in not just Chinese language, but the culture as well. Otherwise there is the risk they'll lose interest.”

Judy notices the different style of teaching in New Zealand compared to that in China. “It is much more student-centred here. In China we have big classes where we all learn together. Here it is more centred on smaller group learning.”

But she also says that some things are the same. “With language learning in both China and New Zealand we want students to talk more. In both countries we know that in order for students to learn they need to start actually speaking a language and make a start with simple things.”

As part of her role, Judy observes the teachers in the classroom, and assists them with pronunciation when needed. She sees the experience as a two-

“The number of New Zealand students learning Chinese language over the past five years has almost doubled.

This is great to see.

But we need more New Zealand students fluent in Mandarin if we are to encourage greater collaboration between New Zealand and China in the future.”

Hon Anne Tolley
Minister of Education