



“Learning is something that a learner does... Not something that is done to the learner.”

The benefits

Academic achievements that typically match or surpass monolingual approaches

Extensive data collection shows that students enrolled in Immersion Programs in European languages, like Italian, score higher in high-stake tests and across all skills than their peers in the same schooling context.

Developing a wider range of skills and improving cognitive skills

CLIL strengthens the ability to process input, which prepares students for higher-order thinking skills, and enhances cognitive development and general learning capabilities such as creative and critical thinking. Students become more flexible and innovative in solving problems, and get opportunities involving risk-taking, confidence building, communication skills, extending vocabulary, self-expression and spontaneous talk. CLIL also motivates and encourages student independence—it develops study skills and concentration.

Gains in first language literacy development

Intensive focus on language structures develops proficiency in students’ native language, laying a solid foundation for academic learning. Students improve literacy skills through grammar analysis and word recognition in their native language.

Increased future opportunities

CLIL helps prepare students for work, study and life in an increasingly multilingual and integrated world. Immersion students can therefore have greater opportunities for future work, travel and further study.

Becoming a truly global citizen

Students gain more intercultural awareness and competence. They develop an understanding of, and respect for, diversity and difference, and an openness to different perspectives and experiences that, in turn, develop world-mindedness and a sense of global citizenship. As an Australian, one must turn to other parts of the world to remain competitive, despite the great physical distances involved.

What is an Immersion Program?

Starting from Year 7 students will learn other subjects in Italian following the Australian curriculum guidelines.

Language immersion

In an Immersion Program, students internalise a new language while using it for meaningful purposes, both social and academic. Students learn through the language rather than in the language.

The approach—CLIL

While there are various approaches to immersion, Cairns State High School has chosen to implement CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning). CLIL is a dual-focused approach – there is a focus on both teaching of content, such as Maths, Science and Humanities, through the target language as well as the language itself.

A constructivist approach

Students are encouraged to explore for themselves, pose questions, and challenge preconceptions to construct meaning from what they are experiencing. Learning is viewed not as a process of filling passive minds with information, but as a process of cognitive change.

Why Italian?

A world language

In Australia today nearly one million Australians are of Italian descent, and Italian has been one of the major community languages in Australia for many years.

A language for the job market

Knowledge of Italian can open doors to a wide range of employment opportunities in a variety of fields.

A language for higher education

Italian can be pursued at a university level in Australia or in many other countries. Speaking Italian opens up study opportunities at renowned Italian universities. The ability to speak another language is considered favourably by many universities.

A language that is fun to learn

Italian is a relatively easy language to learn as it has many commonalities and connections with English, sharing many Latin-derived words and operating with the same roman alphabet.

The language of culture

Italian is the international language of art, architecture, music, ballet, literature, film, fashion and ... food!

A language for travel

Italy has a rich cultural history. Its lifestyle, art, food, wine, fashion, sporting events, architecture and scenic beauty attract some 40 million tourists each year. The ability to speak even a little Italian makes it so much more enjoyable to visit Italy.

A language to learn other languages

Italian is a good basis for learning other languages, especially the Romance languages (Spanish, French, Portuguese and Romanian).





A Global School in a Global World

Cairns State High School is committed to Internationalism and Interculturalism. We promote international mindedness and cultural awareness, as well as the latest innovations in teaching and learning. The study of Languages reflects and supports the school's vision.

Important Information

An additional fee will be charged to cover the cost of resources.

HOW TO ENROL

Nominate your interest with your Italian teacher or the Languages Head of Department.

Opportunities for immersion students after Year 10

Various opportunities are available:

- Higher levels of language studies in Senior years
- Links to universities for advanced language studies
- Future studies abroad
- Scholarship opportunities



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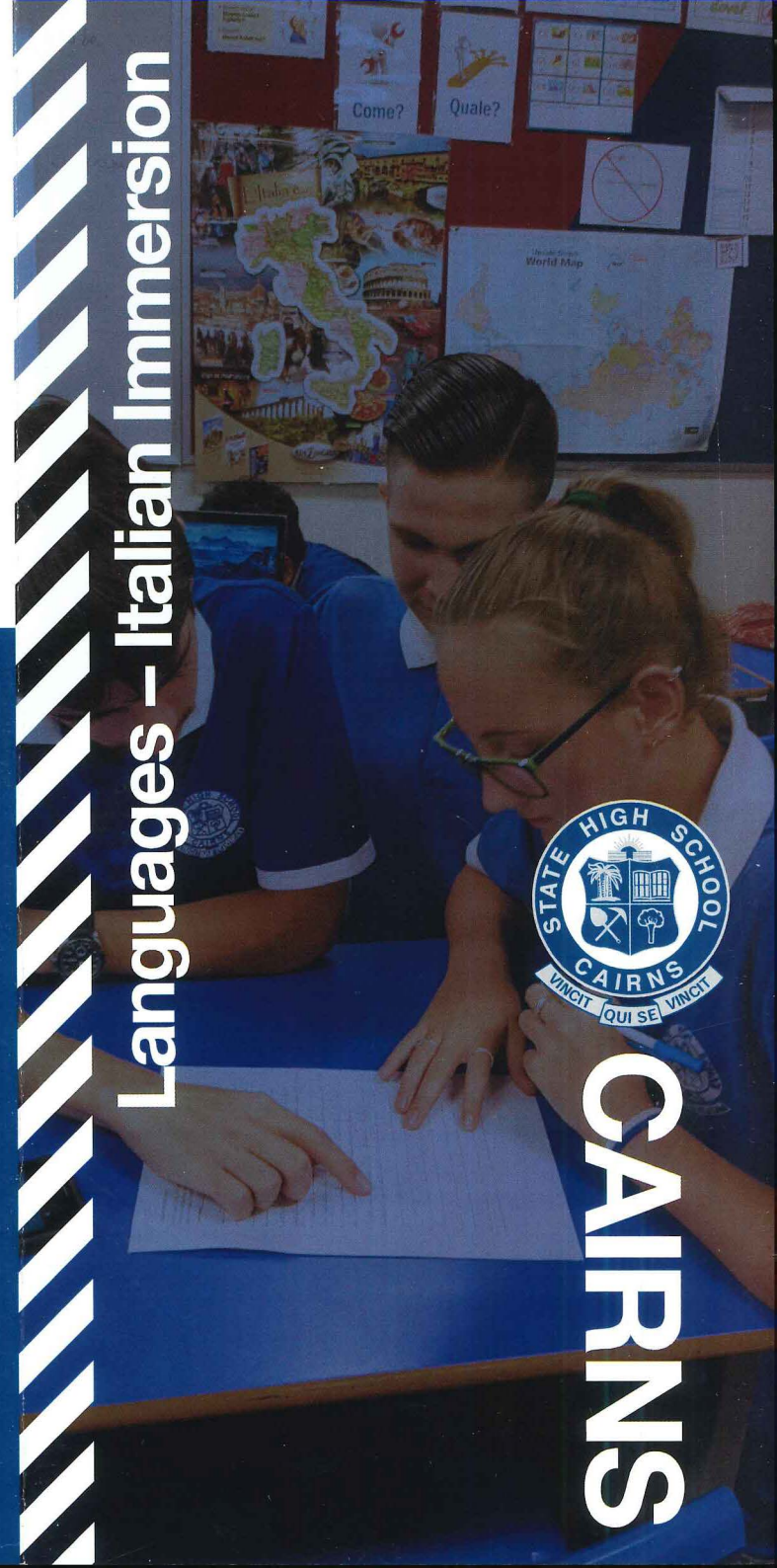
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Languages – Italian Immersion



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