

ITALIAN LANGUAGE



At Bulimba State School, we are passionate about language learning. We teach Italian from Prep through to Year 6 as part of our commitment to helping students develop the skills they need to become competent, confident and respectful global citizens. We strive to develop students who are engaged, interested and enthusiastic about exploring the world and who are capable of working with others across different languages and cultures.

Besides acquiring the ability to communicate some new words and expressions in Italian, the process of learning a new language also:

- ✓ stimulates the brain and enhances students' cognitive development
- ✓ enhances students' communication skills and builds confidence
- ✓ teaches discipline and improves concentration
- ✓ broadens intercultural understanding
- ✓ improves students' knowledge about their first language.

Why Italian?

Italian is one of the most widely spoken community languages in Australia and, as such, many opportunities exist to hear and use the language in real-life situations and experience aspects of Italian culture and food. Italian belongs to the Romance family of languages, which includes French, Spanish and Portuguese, and it shares many connections with English through its Latin-derived words and a Roman alphabet. Although there are points of difference, Italian language is not very linguistically or culturally 'distant' from English, making it one of the easier languages for English-speakers to learn. Learning Italian is useful in Australia and abroad, but it can also serve as a sound launch pad for students to pursue learning other languages in the future. Learning a new language enhances the brain's ability to acquire additional languages.

For students whose future high school does not offer Italian as a language, it is still possible for exiting Year 6 students to develop their fluency in Italian and continue their Italian studies through recognised organisations that offer courses for high school students. The Department of Education, Cairns School of Distance Education, amongst other organisations, offers this opportunity.

Our Learners

At Bulimba State School, our students come from a wide range of language-learning backgrounds, including students who:

- are learning Italian for the first time
- have existing Italian connections with 1st, 2nd or 3rd generation Italian Australians
- have experience in Italian or other romance languages

We cater for learners from different backgrounds and abilities by adjusting our teaching programs.

Italian Captains

Bulimba State School has two Year 6 Italian Captains who assist in promoting, inspiring and celebrating students' involvement in Italian activities. In their role as leaders of Italian at the school, these students model well-spoken Italian to the rest of the students during assemblies and represent Bulimba State School at events and competitions within the community. The Italian Captains also assist with the organisation of Italian events at the school.

Italian Program

The Bulimba State School Italian Program follows the Australian Curriculum – Languages.

Prep – Year 3

Italian language learning at Bulimba starts in Prep. Students from Prep to Year 3 participate in two ½ hour Italian lessons per week. In Prep, activities such as songs, games and puppets are used to tap into the inquisitive and playful nature of young children and help them become attuned to the melodic sounds of the Italian language. In Years 1 to 3, learning activities are organised within topics such as food, pets, families, travel, colours and numbers. As a supplement to fun classroom activities, these classes use C2C resources developed by Education Queensland and the workbook “Andiamo in Italia” to help develop students’ reading and writing of Italian.

Years 4 – 6

Language learning in the Middle Years builds upon the rich experiences in the Early Years. Students have two lessons per week (a total of 60 minutes in Year 4 and 90 minutes in Years 5 and 6). Although the complexity of tasks may increase in the Middle Years, maintaining a love of language learning is the prime objective. The program is organised into units of work that investigate concepts rather than covering one specific topic. The Italian Program for Middle Phase learners utilises some C2C resources developed by Education Queensland as well as a variety of posters, books, dictionaries and some online learning. Italian vocabulary and expressions are practised, recycled, adapted and built upon throughout students’ language learning journey.

Italian classroom

There is a dedicated Italian classroom on Level 1 of C Block. The room provides a pleasant learning environment with café style tables designed to encourage student collaboration and Italian speaking. The room is also equipped with an electronic whiteboard, 6 tablet computers, 6 iPads and stimulating Italian wall displays and images of Italy. At the rear of the Italian classroom, is a teacher preparation room for our two Italian teachers. Most classes have at least one lesson in the Italian classroom per week. Italian lessons are also held in students’ classrooms.

Italian Sister School – San Filippo, Città di Castello

In 2016, Bulimba State School began a Sister School partnership with San Filippo, an elementary school in Città di Castello, Umbria, Italy. Our two schools collaborate to promote mutual cultural and linguistic understanding between students, staff and communities. Through exchanges of ideas, practices and research we aim to enhance the language learning experiences of students while fostering international friendships. Having San Filippo as our Sister School makes it possible to have actual and virtual connections with Italian communities in Italy.

Professional development for teachers in Italy and Italian

Bulimba State School supports and encourages its teachers to become part of the Italian culture at the school. Our teachers have had the opportunity to participate in professional teaching exchanges with our sister school, San Filippo, as well as other teaching initiatives facilitated by Education Queensland in other regions of Italy. Our Italian program is also supported by the Italian Language Centre in Brisbane, which provides language immersion workshops for our Italian teachers.

We look forward to guiding our students to be creative and confident learners who develop a life-long enjoyment of Italian language and culture!



Saluti da

Connie Harley (Prep – Year 3)
charl2@eq.edu.au

Adriana Morgante (Years 4 – 6)
amorg24@eq.edu.au