

Bilingual Mandarin Immersion Pathway Fact Sheet 2022/2023

At EtonHouse International School Broadrick, we are pleased to offer two learning pathways for students which includes a 'Mainstream' environment and a Mandarin Bilingual Immersion environment. Our approach to both these pathways involves learning through inquiry and experiencing language through collaboration, conversation and application.

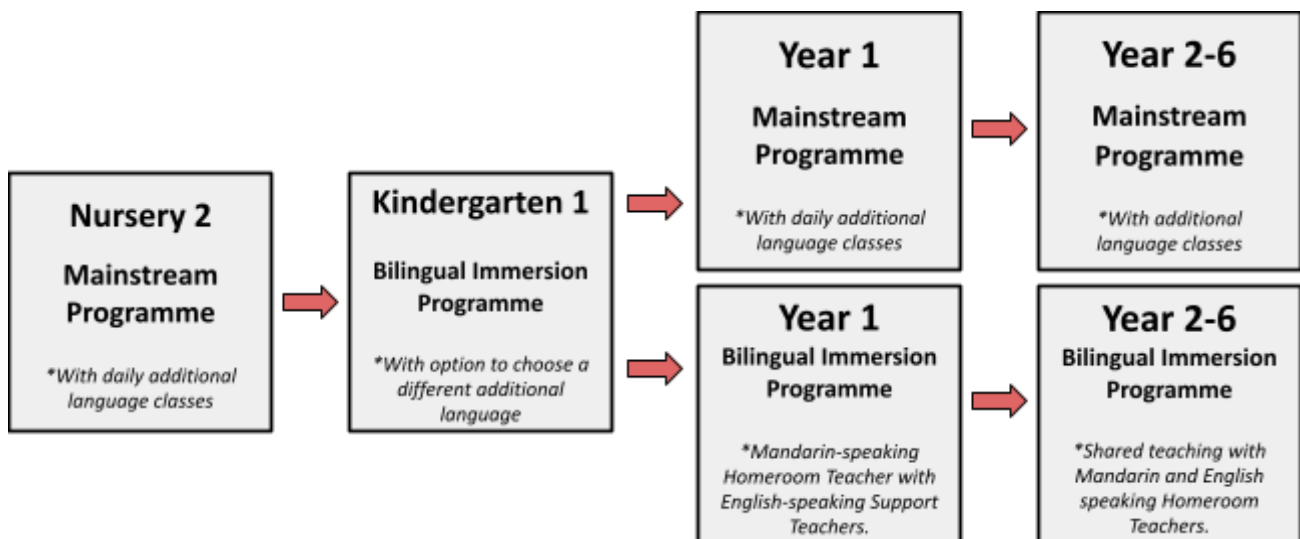
This page is to help parents and carers obtain a clearer picture of the benefits of our Bilingual Immersion Programme and the organisation of the children's learning journey from Nursery to Year 6 at Broadrick. Any further information about the programme can be found with our Parent Liaison Office (PLO).

**For the purpose of this document, when referring to the Bilingual Immersion Programme, we are referring to the Mandarin Language.*

"In my experience as a bilingual student, I have progressed from easy Mandarin characters and copying different characters, to being able to write a whole Mandarin book and write complicated Mandarin words. I can even read complicated Chinese idiom books by myself."

- Henry Year 6 Class 2022/23

Bilingual Mandarin and Mainstream Pathways in the PYP



Benefits of the Bilingual Immersion Programme:

These include but are not limited to;

1. Using Mandarin in context across different subjects, not just in explicit Mandarin language lessons.
2. Students remain in a Bilingual Homeroom for most subjects, unlike other programmes where students move between English and Mandarin classrooms. This allows students to take ownership of the room and create class displays which are relevant to their learning.
3. Two qualified Mandarin and English-speaking teachers collaborating, planning and engaging with the students.
4. “Code-switching” languages allows the student to develop a deeper comprehension of the language and to start ‘thinking’ in that language.
5. Students are constantly encouraged to practise communicating with peers in Mandarin to cement their use of the language in social situations.

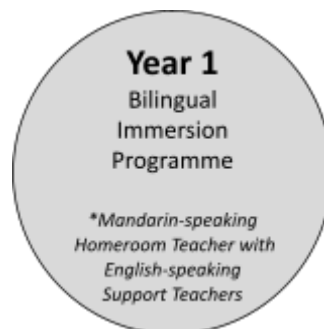
“I remember that a few years ago, I travelled to China with my dad and we went to a restaurant. I spoke Chinese in front of a man and he was very impressed. He asked me where I was from and he was surprised and he praised me that an Indian who could speak a totally different language so fluently.”

- Swaraa Year 6 Class 2022/23

Our Pre-School Pathways



- English-speaking Homeroom Teacher.
- Afternoon Mandarin language acquisition lessons **(or option of 5 x 30 minute lessons of Hindi, Japanese or EAL)*
- All specialist subjects are taught in the English language.



- Mandarin-speaking Homeroom Teacher.
- The Unit of Inquiry is taught through Mandarin with support from the teacher.
- English & Mathematics is supported by an English-speaking Homeroom Teacher.
- All specialist subjects are taught in the English language.



- English-speaking Homeroom Teacher.
- 5 language lessons each week in either Mandarin, Hindi, Japanese or EAL. *(30 minute lessons)*
- All specialist subjects are taught in the English language.



Our Primary Year Program (PYP) Pathways



- English and Mandarin speaking teachers share the homeroom environment.
- The Unit of Inquiry is co-taught by both teachers to provide opportunities to practise Mandarin in multiple contexts.
- Dedicated Mandarin language lessons daily to build skills in Mandarin.
- Visual Arts lessons are taught through Mandarin language.



- English-speaking Homeroom Teacher.
- 4 lessons each week for either Mandarin, Hindi, Japanese or EAL.
- All specialist subjects taught in English language.

**NB - Entry assessments are required for students wishing to join the Bilingual Immersion Programme from the second semester of Year 2 onwards*

"The best part about being in the Bilingual Immersion Program is that you can sing Chinese songs together, you can learn a different language, everyone supports you, and you can be a part of so many interesting celebrations."

- Lia Year 5 Class 2022/23

Details of the Programme

The timetables for the Bilingual Immersion Programme (Y2-Y6) are very similar to the Mainstream Programme except for the additional daily time for Mandarin language instruction lessons. One great benefit for students in the Bilingual Immersion Programme is the opportunity to be immersed in the Mandarin language throughout the day through the practice of conversations, questions and collaboration. This is predominantly done through our Units of Inquiry which uses a transdisciplinary approach to learning and could include concepts and knowledge from subjects such as Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, The Arts or PSPE (Personal, Social and Physical Health). Our belief is that the application of language is the most valuable experience we can offer our learners. We also incorporate Chinese culture learning into our curriculum to nurture a deeper appreciation and love for the language.

GL (Testwise) Assessments

At EtonHouse Broadrick we use an international benchmark assessment called "GL Progress Test" which allows us to track achievement data of Maths and English of students past Year 2. This data is compared to UK and international curriculum standards.

When comparing the achievement levels of Bilingual Immersion and Mainstream classes at Broadrick, there is no difference in their overall achievement levels in these subjects. This shows that our approach to Bilingual Immersion does not negatively impact student learning in these other, equally important, subjects.

The Youth Chinese Test

The Youth Chinese Test (YCT) is an international standardised Chinese language test which is directed at examining non-native primary and secondary school students' ability to apply Chinese language in their studies and daily lives*.

Students work through the years to complete Level 1 to Level 4 examinations which assess whether a person can carry out basic communication tasks of life and secondary study. Completing the Level 4 assessment means that the student could communicate in most situations during their travel in China and into secondary education*.

In both 2021 and 2022, our Bilingual Immersion students completed these tests with a passing rate of 100%. Also in our latest results, our Year 5 and Year 6 Bilingual Immersion students scored an average over 85% in their results for the **Level 4 YCT** testing.

*Taken from the University of Sheffield's Confucius Institute website and HSK Centre (Crestar) information page.

In Year 1, the Bilingual Immersion classes dedicate more opportunities for acquisition of the language by extending the Mandarin teaching time by having a Mandarin-speaking Homeroom Teacher. This means they are placed in an environment where instructions and administration are all conducted in Mandarin to give them a strong foundation of communication to build on for the next years of Bilingual Education. Once they move through Year 2 to Year 6, they are in an environment where they have shared learning experiences in Mandarin and English, but with an English-speaking Homeroom Teacher.

Outside of the timetable, our goal is to ensure that the pupils in our Bilingual Immersion Programme are immersed in Mandarin language as much as possible during the

school days. This may include attending ECAs conducted in Mandarin, having lunch breaks where they are speaking Mandarin, speaking to Mandarin teachers and partaking in special events associated with Chinese culture. We hope that by the time they leave our school in Year 6, they are able to apply what they have learnt through our Bilingual Immersion Programme to their further education and communicate with the world around them. Students who are keen to pursue the Mandarin language further would be able to take it as IGCSE and A-Level subjects at EtonHouse International School Orchard.

"When I was younger I used to watch Chinese cartoons but I couldn't understand an amount of words, but as I grew up I learnt more and more words in Mandarin and now I can understand all the things my favourite character says."

- Illaria Year 6 Class 2022/23

Joining the Bilingual Immersion Programme at EtonHouse Broadrick.

- Students need to have an aptitude and a good attitude toward learning Mandarin.
- Students who wish to join the programme after the **second semester of Year 2** will be assessed by the Mandarin Language team to evaluate if they have the necessary base skills and knowledge to join the programme. Students joining the school in Year 1 and the beginning of Year 2 will not need to complete an assessment.
- Students will need to maintain a high level of understanding in English and Mandarin to ensure they can access the curriculum in both languages.



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- Existing students from the Mainstream Programme, who have shown a high level of understanding and ability in Mandarin Language classes, may be invited to join the Bilingual Immersion Programme on their teacher's recommendation.


Further Information about our Programme

For more information about how you can join our Bilingual Immersion Programme or for some information about our organisation, please visit our Parent Liaison Office or contact us at broadrick@etonhouse.edu.sg.

Kind Regards,



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PYP Coordinator



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Principal

