

Customer Success Story:

# Sydney Catholic Schools



Education | K-6, ESL and World Language



Education

## Language enrichment sparks student interest.

### Challenges

Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS) serves more than 70,000 students in 151 schools in New South Wales, Australia. While there is no mandate to teach a second language in primary school, Sydney is a world city where languages other than English are spoken. SCS believed that new language-learning opportunities might further develop students' literacy and critical thinking skills. Some primary students used their native language other than English, while other students were native English speakers whose family heritage had cultural ties to a world language. SCS did not have the capacity to place language teachers in their primary schools, so wanted an enrichment solution that could serve a large number of students with a variety of language interests.

### Implementation

SCS began with an initiative that placed a Rosetta Stone® Language Learning Suite for K-12 solution in 18 primary schools for K-6 students as a three-year trial. This digital approach:

- Offered 24 languages, including English
- Provided students a staged method of progression
- Delivered engaging, interactive language lessons
- Built confidence with instant pronunciation feedback
- Included online tools to monitor student progress

### Benefits

Rosetta Stone online learning represented an innovative investment that:

- Encouraged problem solving and independent thinking
- Gave parents a broad selection of languages for their children
- Allowed students to learn from home and in school
- Aligned with the SCS strategic improvement plan for innovation
- Complemented students' ability to use technology naturally

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## Creating a language experience

At Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS), their Authentic Learning initiative required programs to be relevant, purposeful, and engaging. Teachers and administrators at SCS valued the opportunity for their students to begin learning a language at a young age. Adopting the Rosetta Stone® online language solution was another step in strengthening the growing SCS language experience. Combining the program's immersion environment with activities highlighting food, art, and other cultural activities provided students a deeper understanding of all that surrounds a language. Art classes integrated language and culture into activities, allowing students to recreate aspects of the culture during art lessons. Even the physical education program introduced cultural games. To further expand the language experience, administrators offered Rosetta Stone licences to all staff in the schools. When teachers and librarians used the program students received a lesson by example on the value of language learning.

## Encouraging parental engagement

SCS offered students interactive Rosetta Stone Games and Activities, an engaging collection that reinforced Language Lessons. In addition, SCS wanted to give students authentic links to the languages being learned, reflecting a concept in the Australian curriculum known as "areas of integration". One school and its parents created Language Café classes and sponsored multicultural events. Italian, French, and Japanese had been popular languages to learn, but there was also growing interest in non-traditional languages such as Chinese (Mandarin) and Arabic. In informal settings, parents and helpers who were native speakers (representing more than ten languages) gathered with students to offer real-world opportunities for practicing languages being learned. This also created a social environment where students could learn more about the rich culture that lives behind each language. Administrators believed that including non-conventional activities for language learning helped to increase student success. Schools also encouraged parental engagement by offering parents online access to the Rosetta Stone program, available anytime and anywhere.

## Benefiting from technology

The Rosetta Stone technology-based solution allowed students of different ages to learn language at their own pace. Students generally used the program for 60 minutes each week, though over time some students increased usage as they continued learning and practicing on their own digital devices. Patented speech-recognition technology supported immediate pronunciation feedback, offered without judgment, helping to build students' speaking confidence. Online language learning aligned with ongoing efforts by SCS to increase opportunities for virtual learning. Investing in effective new learning technologies is part of the SCS strategic improvement plan. Having the ability to measure student activity within those technologies is critical to a successful learning outcome. Rosetta Stone Administrator Tools provided teachers with easy online access allowing them to monitor each student's usage and progress.



Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS) serves more than 70,000 students in the Archdiocese of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. A dedicated staff of 9,000 operates 112 primary schools and 39 secondary schools to ensure a high quality of teaching and learning. More than 95 percent of students in SCS are at or above the national minimum standard in Reading (97.7%), Writing (96.4%), Spelling (97.6%), Grammar and Punctuation (96.8%), and Numeracy (98.6%).

<https://sydcatholicschools.nsw.edu.au>

## About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-driven language-learning solutions for individuals, Educational Institutions, and Business Enterprises.

Our scalable, interactive solutions have been used by over 12,000 businesses, 9,000 public sector organizations, and 22,000 educational institutions worldwide, and by millions of learners in over 150 countries.

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