

Guidance for schools on the four hours of non-teacher taught classroom lessons

Pupils taking part in the Mandarin Excellence Programme must commit to a programme of at least eight hours of Mandarin study a week. This includes 4 hours of tuition time within the school curriculum. This guidance concerns the balance of the four hours of after-school teaching and independent study.

Participating schools and the pupils on the programme should ultimately decide how best to spend the time to ensure that the outcomes of the pupils' participation in the programme are achieved. There is a range of activities that pupils could undertake, such as:

- Practising handwriting characters;
- Enhancement of speaking skills through services such as Skype or Webex;
- Reinforcement of these or other specific skills through various online resources, e.g. enhancement of listening skills through listening to podcasts, or reading skills through reading blogs or other material;
- Going through past exam papers;
- Drilling vocabulary and other aspects of language using apps or online resources
- Enrichment activity which enables use of language, e.g. watching Chinese films and discussing them in the language; or writing songs
- digital storytelling
- free style conversation clubs