ICEC
爱华教育学院
Ireland-China Education College

ICEC Mandarin Chinese Programme

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1. Programme Overview

The ICEC Mandarin Chinese Programme provides structured Mandarin Chinese language education for Irish primary and post-primary schools. The programme supports students' language development, intercultural understanding, and global awareness, preparing them for participation in an increasingly international world.

Our curriculum aligns with the educational framework established by the Department of Education and supports long-term progression towards the Leaving Certificate Chinese examination. To meet the needs of different school stages, ICEC offers two programme pathways:

Primary School Programme

- ☑ Say Yes to Languages Mandarin Module
- ☑ After-School Mandarin Club

Post-Primary School Programme

- ☑ Transition Year Chinese Module
- ☑ Leaving Certificate Chinese Module

2. Why Study Chinese?

Chinese (Mandarin) is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and plays a key role in global business, culture, and international relations. Studying Chinese also enhances cognitive development, intercultural understanding, and global citizenship.

3. Why Choose ICEC?

Educational Expertise with Local Understanding

We combine:

- ✅ In-depth knowledge of the Irish education system
- ✅ Professional Mandarin language pedagogy
- ✅ Experience in school-based programme delivery

Our curriculum is not imported or generic. It is specifically designed for Irish learners, taking into account examination requirements, classroom realities, and cultural context.

Clear Pathway to Leaving Certificate Success

ICEC provides:

- ✅ Structured long-term progression plans
- ✅ Examination-focused training from Senior Cycle onwards
- ✅ Mock examinations and structured feedback
- ✅ Performance tracking and reporting

Our approach enables schools to establish a sustainable Chinese language programme that feeds directly into Leaving Certificate success.

Safeguarding & Compliance Assured

We operate to the highest standards of safeguarding and compliance:

- ✅ Fully Garda Vetted staff
- ✅ Comprehensive insurance coverage
- ✅ Child safeguarding policies aligned with Irish regulations
- ✅ Administrative documentation to support school compliance

Cultural & Global Advantage

Partnering with ICEC equips students with:

- ✅ Enhanced global awareness
- ✅ Intercultural communication skills
- ✅ Broader international perspective
- ✅ Competitive advantage for university applications
- ✅ Career pathway differentiation in an increasingly globalised economy

Reliable & Professional Education Partnership

We work closely with school leadership to:

- ✅ Customise timetables and scheduling
- ✅ Align programmes with school strategic plans
- ✅ Assist with funding or grant applications where appropriate
- ✅ Offer long-term development planning for Chinese language expansion

Our goal is to build sustainable, high-quality Mandarin programmes that integrate seamlessly into each school's academic structure.

4. Primary School Mandarin Programme

ICEC offers introductory Mandarin programmes designed to encourage curiosity, confidence, and cultural awareness among primary school pupils.

4.1 Say Yes to Languages Mandarin Module

Schools may introduce Mandarin Chinese through the national Say Yes to Languages Programme, organised by the Department of Education and delivered by Post-Primary Languages Ireland.

This initiative allows pupils to experience a new language and culture while schools explore the possibility of expanding their language offerings.

Course Information

- Target Group: 5th and 6th class pupils
- Class Duration: 1 hour per class per week
- Course Length: 8–10 weeks
- Teaching Fee: €50 per class

Learning Approach

The Say Yes to Languages Mandarin Module adopts an interdisciplinary and activity-based learning approach. The course is designed to introduce Mandarin through a variety of subjects and creative experiences, helping pupils explore the language in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

Through a cross-curricular approach, Mandarin learning is integrated with elements of:

- Physical Education – language games, movement activities, and team challenges
- Music – simple Chinese songs, rhythm, and pronunciation practice
- Art – creative cultural projects inspired by Chinese traditions and festivals

Pupils participate in small projects, group activities, and friendly competitions, which encourage teamwork, creativity, and confidence in using basic Mandarin.

Funding and Programme Support

Schools participating in the Say Yes to Languages Programme may receive financial support through the Department of Education, administered by Post-Primary Languages Ireland.

Typical funding includes:

- ✅ €500 per participating class
- ✅ Up to €1,000 per school

This funding may be used to support:

- ✅ Mandarin language tutors
- ✅ Teaching materials and classroom resources

ICEC Support for Schools

ICEC provides full support to help schools successfully implement the programme. Our services include:

- ✅ Assisting with the Say Yes to Languages application process
- ✅ Providing qualified Mandarin tutors
- ✅ Programme planning and lesson scheduling
- ✅ Teaching materials and classroom resources
- ✅ Delivery of the full Mandarin module

Application and registration support fee: €100 per school.

With ICEC's support, schools can introduce Mandarin Chinese efficiently and with minimal administrative workload. In most cases, the available government funding fully covers the teaching costs.

4.2 After-School Mandarin Club

ICEC also offers an After-School Mandarin Club designed for primary school pupils who would like to explore Chinese language and culture in a fun and engaging learning environment.

- ✅ Level: Beginner (No prior Chinese experience required)
- ✅ Class Duration: 1 hour per lesson
- ✅ Course Length: 10 lessons per term
- ✅ Fee: €120 per student per term
- ✅ Minimum Class Size: 5 students

Learning Approach

The After-School Mandarin Club emphasises learning through fun and interaction. Lessons are designed to help pupils naturally become familiar with Mandarin through games, activities, and everyday communication scenarios.

Children learn through:

- ✅ Interactive language games
- ✅ Role-play in real-life situations (greetings, shopping, school life)
- ✅ Songs, storytelling, and group activities
- ✅ Cultural experiences such as festivals, food, and traditions
- ✅ Creative crafts and hands-on activities

The focus is on building confidence, curiosity, and enjoyment in language learning, while helping pupils gain their first experience of Chinese language and culture in a friendly and supportive environment.

5. Transition Year (TY) Chinese Module

Level	Introductory
Duration	One Academic Year
Class Length	1 hour per lesson
Fee	€50 per lesson

5.1 Alignment with Senior Cycle Key Skills

The TY module supports:

- ☑ Communicating
- ☑ Working with Others
- ☑ Managing Information and Thinking
- ☑ Being Personally Effective
- ☑ Staying Well

5.2 Learning Focus

The TY module introduces students to:

- ☑ Pinyin (phonetic system) and tonal accuracy
- ☑ Basic Chinese characters and writing principles
- ☑ Everyday communicative functions (greetings, introductions, daily routines)
- ☑ Chinese culture, festivals, geography, and social customs

5.3 Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- ☑ Exchange greetings and provide personal information
- ☑ Describe family, school, hobbies, food, and daily life
- ☑ Recognise and use numbers and basic expressions
- ☑ Demonstrate introductory listening and reading comprehension
- ☑ Show awareness of cultural similarities and differences

5.4 Assessment

- ☑ Continuous classroom assessment
- ☑ Short oral presentations
- ☑ Cultural project work

▶ The TY module serves as a foundation for progression to Leaving Certificate Chinese.

6. Leaving Certificate Chinese Programme

Duration	One Academic Year
Class Length	1.5 hours per lesson
Fee	€80 per lesson

All Leaving Certificate classes are examination-focused and fully aligned with the specification requirements regarding communicative competence, thematic content, and assessment modes.

- **Students are placed in LC1 or LC2 according to their Chinese language proficiency.**

6.1 Leaving Certificate 1 (LC1)

Foundation Examination Preparation

- Target Group:

  Students with limited prior exposure to Chinese (non-native beginners).

6.1.1 Specification Alignment

This level develops students' competence across the four language skills in accordance with the Leaving Certificate specification:

Listening

- Understanding main points in clearly articulated speech
- Responding to structured listening tasks

Reading

- Understanding short texts on familiar topics
- Developing scanning and inference skills

Spoken Interaction & Production

- Participating in structured conversations
- Delivering short presentations on prescribed themes

Writing

- Producing short compositions
- Using appropriate vocabulary and grammar within thematic contexts

6.1.2 Thematic Areas

Teaching is organised around themes outlined in the national specification, including:

- ☑ Personal identity
- ☑ Family and friends
- ☑ Education and school life
- ☑ Hobbies and interests
- ☑ Food and lifestyle
- ☑ Society and culture

6.1.3 Examination Preparation

Students receive structured guidance on:

- ☑ Examination format and marking criteria
- ☑ Oral examination expectations
- ☑ Listening response techniques
- ☑ Reading comprehension strategies
- ☑ Guided writing structures
- ☑ Time management skills

6.1.4 Assessment & Mock Examinations

- ☑ Continuous assessment
- ☑ Timed written assignments
- ☑ Oral simulations
- ☑ Listening practice tests
- ☑ End-of-year mock-style examination
- ☑ Individual performance feedback

6.2 Leaving Certificate 2 (LC2)

Intermediate / Advanced Examination Preparation

- Target Group:

  Students with prior Chinese study experience, including heritage speakers and advanced learners.

6.2.1 Specification Alignment

LC2 fully prepares students for strong performance at Higher Level in accordance with the Leaving Certificate Chinese specification.

Listening

- Understanding extended speech
- Identifying detail, opinion, and implied meaning

Reading

- Analysing authentic texts
- Demonstrating inference and interpretation skills

Spoken Interaction & Production

- Expressing and justifying opinions
- Engaging in spontaneous interaction
- Delivering structured presentations

Writing

- Producing structured and analytical essays
- Applying formal and semi-formal registers
- Demonstrating grammatical accuracy and lexical range

6.2.2 Advanced Examination Training

Examination Analysis

- Study of marking schemes
- Review of examiner reports
- Analysis of high-scoring sample responses
- Identification of common error trends

Skills Development

- Argument development and logical organisation
- Formal writing conventions
- Oral examination confidence training
- Listening inference techniques
- Editing and self-correction strategies

6.2.3 Mock Examination Programme

- Two structured mock oral examinations
- Full written mock examinations under examination conditions
- Listening simulation tests
- Detailed written feedback reports
- Individual consultation sessions

6.2.4 Assessment

- Continuous performance evaluation
- Timed Higher Level writing tasks
- Oral simulations
- Formal mock examinations
- Final annual examination

7. Teaching Methodology

The ICEC Mandarin programme adopts a student-centred and communicative approach, consistent with the teaching and learning principles promoted by the Department of Education and the assessment structure of the Leaving Certificate Chinese.



Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)

Lessons prioritise real-life communication and practical language use. Students develop confidence in spoken Mandarin through interactive activities such as conversations, role-play, and collaborative tasks.



Task-Based and Active Learning

Students participate in task-based learning activities designed to simulate authentic situations such as introductions, school life, travel, and daily communication.

Active learning strategies encourage students to engage in discussion, problem-solving, and group collaboration.



Specification-Aligned Skill Development

All teaching is aligned with the Leaving Certificate Chinese specification, ensuring balanced development across the four assessed language skills:

- Listening
- Reading
- Spoken interaction and production
- Writing

Students gradually build proficiency in each skill area through structured classroom practice.

Examination Preparation and Strategy Training

As students progress through the programme, increasing emphasis is placed on examination preparation, including:

- Analysis of past Leaving Certificate examination papers
- Development of exam answering strategies
- Practice in time management and question interpretation
- Regular mock examinations and feedback

This structured approach helps students develop confidence and familiarity with the exam format.

Assessment for Learning

The programme incorporates continuous formative assessment, consistent with current Irish teaching practice. Teachers provide:

- Regular feedback on speaking and writing
- Short progress checks and practice tasks
- Guidance to support students' individual learning goals
- This approach helps students identify strengths and areas for improvement throughout the course.

Digital Learning Integration

Where appropriate, digital resources and multimedia materials are incorporated to support language learning. These may include:

- Audio and video materials for listening practice
- Online vocabulary tools and learning platforms
- Interactive classroom activities

Digital learning helps create a dynamic and engaging learning environment for students.

8. Expected Outcomes

Students completing this programme will:

- Demonstrate competence across all four language skills
- Show clear familiarity with Leaving Certificate examination structure and expectations
- Apply effective examination strategies confidently
- Exhibit intercultural awareness and global perspective

9. Expected Outcomes

Scheduling

The ICEC Mandarin programme can be delivered in several flexible formats depending on the needs of the school:

- [x] In-class language module
- [x] Transition Year module
- [x] After-school Mandarin club
- [x] Examination preparation classes for senior cycle students

Timetables can be arranged in consultation with the school to ensure smooth integration with the existing curriculum.

Teacher Provision

ICEC provides qualified Mandarin tutors with experience in teaching Chinese in international and Irish educational settings.

All tutors are supported with structured teaching materials and programme guidelines to ensure consistent teaching quality.

Learning Resources

ICEC provides appropriate learning materials including:

- ✅ Structured lesson resources
- ✅ Multimedia materials for listening and speaking practice
- ✅ Cultural learning activities
- ✅ Exam preparation materials for Leaving Certificate students

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