

Bring Japan to Your Classroom!

- Benefits of Teaching Japanese -



The Scottish Government held a survey in 2020-2021 about teaching languages in primary and secondary schools and they concluded “a marked increase in the teaching of BSL and Scots as an L3 in primary schools suggests **an increasing appetite for less traditionally taught languages**”. According to statistics from the Scottish Government, **Japanese is taught in 8 out of 255 primary schools** as an L3 language.

Source: 1+2 languages policy - local authority survey 2021: findings

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/12-languages-policy-findings-2021-survey-local-authorities/>

Foreign language learning is widely recognized as a key contributor to cognitive development, intercultural understanding, and global readiness. Among the many languages available, **Japanese offers distinct benefits that can enrich a school's language provision in unique ways.**



As a non-European language with a fundamentally different linguistic structure, **Japanese challenges learners to think in new patterns and perspectives**. This cognitive distance from English **enhances problem-solving skills, deepens cultural awareness, and fosters adaptability**—skills that are increasingly essential in today's interconnected world.



Introducing Japanese not only broadens pupils' **academic and personal development** but also opens **access to a vibrant global culture and growing economic partner**. It invites engagement with diverse texts, technologies, and creative industries—from literature and robotics to animation and design.



Incorporating Japanese into the curriculum can be a meaningful step toward **a more inclusive and globally responsive language education strategy.**



- Support for Japanese Teaching -



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Japanese Language Education for Scottish Schools Project

79 pupils from 36 schools took part online 2023-2025

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/bringjapantoclassroomscotland/what-we-do/>

Learning Japanese with e-Sgoil

Online courses with a professional teacher for pupils in Scotland.

Any pupil at your school are welcome to join.

<https://www.e-sgoil.com/offers/japanese-2024-25>



JAPANFOUNDATION 

The London office runs many cultural events, seminars, workshops, funding programmes and more in the United Kingdom.

More details overleaf.





The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 by special legislation in the Japanese Diet to work in the fields of Japanese Language Education, Arts and Culture, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange. There are offices based all over the world.

Contact The Japan Foundation, London

E-mail: info.language@jpf.go.jp

Tel: 020 7492 6570



Programmes to Help Schools Introduce Japanese

Japanese Taster for Schools Programme

https://www.jpf.org.uk/language/teaching_stepout.php

Creating links between schools and Japanese-speaking volunteers for one-off Japanese language taster sessions.



Local Project Support Programme

<https://www.jpf.org.uk/language/funding.php>

Funding for projects or activities promoting Japanese language education in schools, such as Japanese clubs.



Japanese Clubs from Scratch Project

<https://forms.office.com/r/g6cLFsiXwg>

Teacher training courses and specialised materials to start new Japanese clubs in schools.



Teaching Resources

Japanese Scheme of Work for Primary Schools – JSOW

<https://jpf.org.uk/language/jsow.php>

A1 Level (CEFR) tasks based on tangible “can-do” activities rather than an analytical approach.



Ready Steady NihonGO!

<https://www.japansociety.org.uk/rsn/>

An interactive primary language project to teach Japanese to KS2 pupils. Designed to be part of a curriculum but can also be used for Japanese clubs.



Irodori

<https://www.irodori.jpf.go.jp/en/>

An online textbook for learning basic Japanese communication skills that can be used for daily life in Japan.



Marugoto Plus

<https://marugotoweb.jp/en/index.php>

Online resources for learning about Japanese language culture, based on the official MARUGOTO coursebook.



Japan Video Topics

Check out videos on Japanese culture, nature, science, technology, tourism and more!



<https://web-japan.org/jvt/>



This leaflet was made by
The University of Edinburgh and
The Japan Foundation, London
for the
Bring Japan to Your Classroom!
– Touring Schools in Scotland –
project.

June 2025