

China

EICS welcomes students and staff who have cultural roots in China. Chinese New Year was celebrated on January 22nd this year, starting the year of the Rabbit. Here are a few pieces of information about Chinese culture.



Language

- As many as 129 dialects are spoken in China among 56 different ethnicities.
- The majority of the population is able to communicate with one another in **Mandarin**, the official language which is taught in the national school system.
- China remains united under a single writing system of over 400,000 characters.

Religion

- China is a multi-religious country. Taoism, Islam, Buddhism, Protestantism, and Catholicism have all grown into culture-shaping neighborhoods during Chinese history.
- Only five religions are official in China: Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism, and Protestantism.
- Confucianism was a way of life for ancient Chinese people, and it continues to influence Chinese culture today. The major religion in China is Taoism (or Daoism as it is also commonly known). Those who do not follow Taoism primarily subscribe to **Buddhism**, followed by **Christianity** and **Islam**.

Celebrations

China is listed as the most ancient civilization in the world. It has over 5000 years of traditional history and witnessed the creation of many Chinese traditional festivals. According to the Chinese region, Chinese festivals categories into three categories **agricultural**, **religious**, and **social** festivals.

The most important festival in China is the new year. Chinese New Year 2023 falls on Sunday, January 22nd, 2023, and celebrations culminate with the [Lantern Festival](#) on February 5th, 2023. Preparations for the new year begin on January 14th, 2023, and last until New Years Eve. Chinese New Year 2022 celebrates the [The Year of The Rabbit](#).



Customs and Traditions

- It is critical you avoid losing face or causing the loss of face at all times. Public criticism therefore, or putting someone on the spot is avoided.
- In general, the Chinese are a collective society with a need for group affiliation, whether to their family, school, work group, or country.
- Individuals are typically willing to subjugate their own feelings for the good of the group which can often be observed by the use of silence in very structured meetings.
- If someone disagrees with what another person says, rather than disagree publicly, the person will remain quiet. This gives face to the other person, while speaking up would be deemed to cause both parties lose face.
- Children, although highly prized in China, are required to show obedience and respect to their elders and to undertake chores in the home and at school.
- Education in China is mandatory for nine years. At least three quarters of the population go on to attend secondary education which lasts for three years.

Please note: Each of the families attending your school are unique. While it is so important to educate ourselves about cultures other than our own, it is equally important to avoid grouping students into a single category or make assumptions about a student based on what you know to be true of his or her culture. Learning the history and background of students is just one piece of understanding your students. If you would like to learn more about the chinese culture, please connect with your families at your school and take a look at the attached websites.

[Digi Edu Pro - Chinese Culture](#)

[ESL and Cultures Resource - China](#)

[Chinese New Year 2023](#)

<https://www.commisceo-global.com/resources/country-guides/china-guide>