

In our school every day we learn, love and pray.

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Modern Foreign Languages Policy

"A learning community, celebrating Christ in all, building a kingdom of love, hope and joy."

As a Catholic school we recognise in everyone the dignity and beauty of the person, made in the image of God. We value each individual and respect them regardless of their background and circumstances because they are our brothers and sisters in the family of God, and we are called to love and value everyone.

Purpose of Study

Learning a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social, and cultural experience for our pupils. We aim to develop children's experience of language acquisition and encourage curiosity about languages through learning a series of different target languages throughout Key Stage 2- at present these are Greek, Russian, Spanish, and Polish. Children are encouraged to develop their understanding of what they hear and read, and their ability to express themselves in speech and writing. The children can develop their knowledge and understanding of how language works and explore similarities and differences between our target languages and English. We also aim to strengthen children's sense of identity through learning about the culture and traditions of the country whose language they are learning and comparing them to our own culture.

Aims

The National Curriculum for languages aims to ensure that by the end of Key Stage 2 all pupils:

- *understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources*
- *speak with increasing confidence, fluency, and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation*
- *can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt*
- *discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.*

Organisation

We are extremely fortunate to have staff members who are native speakers of our current target languages and are therefore able to teach the languages with confidence. Each Key Stage 2 class focuses on one language each academic year which is either taught weekly or in a block during the year. The lessons are taught in a whole class setting. Language lessons provide a variety of sources to model the language such as story books, PowerPoint presentations and teacher dialogue, and games and songs are used to maximise enjoyment. Lessons focus on speaking and listening. However, when appropriate, children may record written work, which is retained by the teacher as evidence of the children's progress.

National Curriculum Guidelines

The National Curriculum states that pupils should be taught to:

- listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
- speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases, and basic language structures
- develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
- present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences
- read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases, and simple writing
- appreciate stories, songs, poems, and rhymes in the language
- broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary
- write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly
- describe people, places, things, and actions orally and in writing

Children learn to listen, respond, and speak in the target language and begin to express their opinions and justify them. Children also begin to read and write simple sentences and may learn that some languages use a different alphabet. Children also learn about culture and traditions and compare them with our own. A multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching is used in some of

the games, rhymes, and songs to reinforce memory. Children can discuss how the language works and noticing similarities and differences between the target language and English is encouraged. Links are also made between the target language and other languages that children may speak at home. Children are encouraged to express themselves in the target language and praised for their attempts to communicate both orally and in writing. We aim to foster a positive attitude to learning a foreign language.

Assessment

Children's ability, confidence and progress are assessed through ongoing teacher assessment during lessons, and samples of independent written work are also used to assess progress.

Wider Opportunities and Transition

We work with the other schools in the Abingdon MFL (Modern Foreign Language) Network to share good practice and resources. This network includes the secondary schools who share information about what they would like the children to know when they move up to Year 7. The local independent schools also offer language-based events such as the annual 'Love Languages' festival.

The whole school takes part in our own Mother Tongue Day, when each class focusses on a country and learns about the culture and language of that country. Each class then shares their learning with parents and the rest of the school by preparing and running a stall in the Hall during the afternoon.

French is also offered as an extra-curricular lunchtime club in Key Stage 1, which is also due to be opened to Key Stage 2.

Monitoring and Review

Teachers deliver the MFL lessons in their own native languages for each Key Stage 2 class. The MFL subject leader supports and liaises with the teachers. The MFL governor meets with the MFL Leader to monitor subject delivery and discuss ways to improve provision.

MFL Governor- Ms Samantha Martin-Morrissey

MFL Subject Leader-Mrs Fiona Semple

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