Languages (MFL) Policy

Purpose of study

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries."

-The National Curriculum in England: Key stages 1 and 2 Framework Document. September 2013

Context:

Children at St Nicholas Catholic Primary School have been learning Spanish since September 2021. The school is a 1.5 entry school with a variety of languages spoken. In Key Stage 2, children receive 30 minutes of Spanish teaching per fortnight and school aims to follow up activities when appropriate outside of the language lesson.

Inclusion:

All children, regardless of background or any additional needs, have the right to a good quality education. Through differentiation and additional support, all children can enjoy learning a language, develop communication skills, discover more about the world and its diversity, and celebrate and appreciate cultural and linguistic differences. These skills can then be linked to and developed in other curriculum areas.

Intent and Vision:

At St Nicholas Catholic Primary School, we believe that the learning of a language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It helps them to develop communication skills, including the core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The children's knowledge of how language works, phonology and elements of grammar will be developed and extended. Lessons will enable pupils to make substantial progress in one language. The transferable language learning skills gained will assist and lay foundations for further language

learning. It will provide pupils with the confidence and independence to explore and be able to attempt manipulation of the structure of language. Learning another language gives children a new and broader perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others.

Mixed-age classes:
As our school has mixed-age classes, we adapt the scheme of work to form a two-year cycle (Year A and Year B) which allows the children to access the four stages of language learning and complete these by the end of KS2.

Management and Training:

The subject is managed by the Languages Co-ordinator. To ensure the language skills of staff are developed and sustained the school are members of the Primary Languages Network. The PLN scheme of work is a thorough and ambitious scheme which ensures progression in language learning across the four core skills, the three pillars of progression (vocabulary, phonics and grammar) and also the DfE 12 Attainment Targets.

Implementation - Curriculum:

Our school follows the Primary Languages Network scheme of work (Video2Teach). It is a live scheme which is continually updated and revised in order to meet with current curriculum standards. It holds at its core the Intent, Implementation and Impact of MFL whilst maintaining a 'primary' focus. Alongside the planning provided, the scheme is supported by accompanying videos, PowerPoints, audio files (spoken by native speakers), links to authentic literature, songs, games, cultural points of reference, seasonal events and cross-curricular links.

The scheme of work is progressive, with the foundations being laid in Stages 1 and 2, ready for further development and challenge in Stages 3 and 4.

Implementation - Teaching and Learning:

To promote an active learning of languages a range of teaching methods are implemented to ensure that the children are developing their linguistic skills through listening, speaking, reading and writing in order to be secondary ready. Activities can consist of actions, rhymes, stories, song, drama, grammar focus, video clips, air writing, sentence structure, dictionary work, book making and many more creative ways to extend, embed and combine language skills. Written work is kept in workbooks, although formal writing is not the outcome of every lesson. The skill of writing is developed through use of whiteboards and air writing leading to writing in books.

Impact:

Our curriculum is planned to demonstrate progression both in core skills and language learning skills. Assessment for learning takes place during lessons in order to evaluate and provide immediate feedback to improve further. Errors are corrected by being 're-framed' and growth mindset is encouragement for all to 'have a go' and learn from any mistakes. Pupils self-assess each learning objective using PLN's self-assessment cloud documents. There are inbuilt opportunities to carry out summative assessment (Puzzle It Out) during the year in listening, speaking, reading and writing in order to track progress. The aim is for a core body of language (words and phrases) to be *'left in the sieve' (*as quoted by Dr Michael Wardle, HMI Lead for Languages) by the end of each stage.

Through the use of Puzzle It Out assessments and the tracking of results using a spreadsheet, progress can be monitored, and show the **impact** of language learning. The outcomes of these assessments allow staff to identify any of the core skills which still need developing and any areas of content which need further reinforcement.

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