

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy

Foreign language teaching has been a valued part of the school curriculum at St. Austin's since 1999.

Modern foreign Languages Intent

The 2014 National Curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages aims to ensure that all children:

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 that they are 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.

A high-quality languages education should foster children's curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. At St. Austin's, we are committed to ensuring that competence in another language enables children to interpret, create and exchange meaning within and across cultures. It also helps children develop skills that will open further opportunities later in life. The teaching of Spanish in KS2 provides an appropriate balance of spoken and written language and lays the foundations for further foreign language teaching at KS3.

Aims and objectives:

to foster an interest in learning other languages;
to introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;

to develop children's speaking and listening skills;
to lay the foundations for future study.

Organisation

Children from Years 3 to 6 participate in weekly Spanish lessons.

Overseas Links

We participate in short term projects with overseas schools through the British Council's eTwinning initiative. Contact with partner schools allows:

- Children throughout the school to learn about other countries and other cultures.
- The children to practise language skills by communicating with their partner schools.
- The children to be exposed to text and images from other countries in other languages.

Through the British Council's Connecting Classrooms initiative we have a partner school in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The curriculum

From September 2020, Spanish is the modern foreign language taught at St. Austin's School.

We teach the children to know and understand how to:

memorise words;
use correct pronunciation and intonation;
interpret meaning;
ask and answer questions;
understand basic grammar;
use dictionaries;

work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the target language;
appreciate life in another culture.
by UKS2 to write using known structures and subject specific vocabulary.
Teaching and learning styles

We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs). We often use puppets and soft toys to demonstrate the foreign language. Weekly lessons are taught by two KS2 teachers who are language specialists. We frequently use mime to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language, as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation. We balance listening and speaking skills with reading and writing skills as appropriate for the age of the children. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, i.e. we try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language and award certificates at our Achievements Evening at the end of each academic year.

Each year, UKS2 children perform a Nativity using their language skills to their peers, parents and invited guests. This makes their language learning purposeful and rewarding.

Teaching a modern foreign language to children with special educational needs

At St. Austin's we teach a modern foreign language to all children, whatever their ability. A modern foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs.

We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning a modern foreign language. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

Assessment

We assess the children to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. We do this informally during the lessons. Termly performance is monitored against Age Related Expectations for MFL and is recorded on the Otrack system. Parents are informed of their child's progress in the end of year school report and are able to discuss any concerns with the class teacher at Parents' Evening.

Subject monitoring

The MFL co-ordinator will monitor medium term planning, children's work and display work through drop-in observations and work scrutiny. Through Otrack, the co-ordinator has an overview of standards in language learning which may be reported to the Link Governor when requested.

Resources

A variety of resources are available in school to support teaching and learning. Online resources are also used to stimulate and engage pupils. The co-ordinator keeps a record of resources which is regularly reviewed. Resources are accessible to all in the resources area of the school hall.

COVID-19 update

In the event of children needing to isolate, the school will ensure that children are able to access the MFL curriculum. This will be implemented through TEAMS and the work will be appropriate for LKS2 or UKS2. The TEAMS platform allows children to participate in online learning and receive feedback. The platform will be used to share resources and/or appropriate websites to support language learning. This will enable the children to continue their language learning at home. Teachers will refer to the e-safety policy when operating TEAMS. If children are unable to access

TEAMs, the work will be made available on paper copies.

Signed: _____ (on behalf of staff)

Date: _____

Signed: _____ (on behalf of governors)

Date _____

Updated September 2020

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