

MFL Mandarin Subject Overview 2023-24

'To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world.' Chinese proverb.

Curriculum Aims and Principles

At Greet, we are driven by a collective mission of ensuring that children understand that there are **no limits to what they can achieve**. It is through this relentless ambition and high expectations that we seek to **achieve excellence** for our children, to develop their **social intelligence** and their understanding of how to live **ethical lives**. Our school mission and values form the drumbeat of day-to-day life at Greet. They are the driving forces behind our curriculum design.

Our curriculum has the children of Greet at its heart. It is rooted in our school, our families and our local community whilst ensuring learners are also taught about national and global issues. We endeavour to give our children a strong sense of their own identity and their place in the world, and to respect the same for others. They will know the story of humankind, its place in history and how they can have a positive impact on the future, so they are fully prepared for the challenges of the 21st Century.

All of our curriculum areas are carefully planned and mapped using **our core curriculum principles**. These ensure our curriculum is: **values driven**; focused on **the essentials**; **coherent, connected** and **cumulative**; incorporates **carefully selected knowledge**; **vocabulary rich**; **ambitious**; and **builds cultural capital**. Please see our 'Curriculum Aims and Principles' document for more details.

For all subject areas we have **carefully selected and sequenced the key knowledge and vocabulary** our children need to build the foundations of future academic success. Knowledge and vocabulary are **explicitly mapped on our medium term plans**. This knowledge and vocabulary is **delivered as a minimum requirement**. Content is arranged sequentially and logically with key concepts are revisited in a range of contexts within a year group, across year groups and across subjects. Our curriculum threads link key themes across the school.

MFL Mandarin at Greet

We believe that learning a modern foreign language supports an understanding of living in a multi-cultural society and provides children with an opening in which to explore other cultures, fostering curiosity about the world. The National Curriculum expectation for MFL is that all pupils learn one language from Year 3. At Greet, pupils are given a head-start, with weekly MFL lessons beginning in Year 1. We have chosen our core language to be Mandarin.

Our specialist Mandarin teacher works with all children to teach the four skills of learning a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Lessons start with pronunciation and retrieval practice. We use actions to accompany words to support vocabulary learning. Children start to read and write characters right away to boost fine motor skills and encourage concentration. When learning to read characters children are encouraged to use their imaginations, making visual associations to help them link the characters to their meaning.

Mandarin lessons not only equip children with the knowledge and understanding to communicate in Mandarin, but also increase their intercultural understanding by seeing things from another's perspective, giving them insight into the people and traditions of other cultures. We believe that this is essential when developing global citizens. The children



have many opportunities to explore Chinese culture in Mandarin lessons. They learn about key Chinese festivals including the Lunar New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival and Dragon Boat Festival.

Our MFL curriculum **aligns closely to the National Curriculum** and provides our pupils with the opportunity to:

- 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.
- Write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences.

At Greet Primary School we teach **an ambitious Mandarin curriculum** through the use of the Chinese Made Easy scheme of work. This ensures that our Mandarin curriculum content is mapped **sequentially and logically** with **key vocabulary and knowledge revisited** to support children to **know more and remember more**.

KS1

The teaching and learning in KS1 mainly focuses on speaking and listening activities, exposing children to a wide range of Chinese vocabulary and commonly used phrases. Children take part in activities involving games, role play, songs and other communicative learning activities. We hope that this will allow us to introduce children to Mandarin Chinese in a relaxed, low-risk and engaging manner.

KS2

In KS2, children start learning Mandarin Chinese following the textbook series Chinese Made Easy For Kids. Pupils learn language skills through a wide variety of learning activities that involve listening, speaking, reading and writing. Throughout these activities, the children are introduced to a wide range of commonly used Chinese characters alongside pinyin, the phonetic system used to help Chinese learners with pronunciation. Alongside this, children are introduced to many key parts of spoken and written Chinese such as: tones, radicals and stroke order. Our language specialist places significant importance on making sure that learning activities facilitate communicative language learning and allow children to use their newly acquired language skills as soon as possible.

Entitlements

Through the MFL Mandarin curriculum every child will:

- receive Mandarin teaching with a specialist teacher every week.

Assessment

We assess children's learning of Mandarin in the following ways:

- Retrieval practise at the start of each lesson.
- End of unit quizzing.
- Half termly whole-class videos to demonstrate aspects of speaking and listening progress.

