



Guyhirn Church of England Primary School Latin Rationale

At Guyhirn Church of England Primary School we have based our Latin curriculum around the “Minimus” textbooks, which have been written specifically for children. They are based around the lives of a real family from the Roman fort at Vindolanda on Hadrian’s Wall in the North East of England. This means the knowledge children will gain has been carefully specified, ordered coherently and built over time by a language expert. As children work through our Latin curriculum they will know more about etymology, grammar and vocabulary and this will strengthen their English literacy skills. They will be exposed to ancient history and culture and this will strengthen their skills in History and increase their cultural capital.

A good understanding of language relies on firm foundations of knowledge and skills. The skills our curriculum develops, like the knowledge, are specified, ordered coherently and progress over time. This curriculum structure helps pupils to deepen their understanding of language, culture and history, fostering curiosity and fascination for the world we live in.

Teaching Latin with a knowledge rich focus means that the knowledge children will be taught has been identified, in each class, in each unit and in each lesson. As children work through the curriculum they will know more and understand more about the language, culture and the influence Romans had in Britain, Europe and the World. This rigorous approach, covering and going beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum, leaves nothing to chance, building vocabulary and literacy knowledge and understanding in a way that allows them to make meaningful connections and gain an understanding of how many languages of our world are connected.

Conceptual understanding is at the heart of our curriculum. Children will learn about key etymological root words, literacy concepts such as subject, object and verb, culture, history and interconnection. Over time, working through an essential process of elaboration, children will add to their conceptual understanding with many examples of Latin vocabulary in context. Children will become more skilled at answering questions such as; what was it like to live in this place? What are the differences between then and now? How do archaeologists know what life was like? Children will gain an understanding of what archaeologists and historians do, what they look for and what they may say about a place.

Each year our Latin curriculum will build on work that the children have either previously learned with our new. The first units will explicitly teach skills which will then be used in context throughout the rest of the year as children apply those skills to learn more about people, places and the environment. The units build on prior knowledge before moving children on as the level of challenges increases from year to year. The aim of the Latin units is to build children's literacy so that they are able to make an educated guess at the meaning of a word they have not yet learned by examining it for links to words they already know.