



## **Subject Statement: Latin**

### **Curriculum Intent**

**At Harper Bell, we believe studying a Latin curriculum will benefit our children greatly. Our Latin curriculum is progressive, encourages children to develop a love for languages and etymology, enriching and most importantly inclusive of all pupils.**

We all understand the importance of phonics, the systematic study of the English letters and their sounds. However, [phonics](#) only covers part of our complex language, the English part, and those traditional concrete words that children learn to speak and read first.

With over two thirds of our words being derived from Latin, it is certainly much more than a ‘dead language’. English, you see, is a hybrid language, a marriage of two languages—English and Latin. The name English comes from the Angles who, along with the Saxons and other barbarians, invaded Britain after the fall of Rome in the 5th century. English is a Germanic language and, the Germans being barbarians, had mostly concrete, common, everyday words, the words children learn to speak and read first in primary school.

Beginning in year three, children start to encounter the Latin part of English. Latin words are bigger, harder, have more syllables, more abstract meanings, and different pronunciation and spelling patterns. Our aim is for children to have a deep understanding of etymology and utilise Latin as both an extension of English lessons and as a route to understanding spoken languages more effectively.

Our aspirations are a fundamental part of our curriculum design and we feel that Latin is a gateway for children to develop social mobility and heighten their opportunities in finding a university education.

### **Curriculum Implementation**

Children are introduced to Latin from Year 3 and receive a weekly 1-hour lesson, throughout their time in KS2. This starting part enables our children to develop early language acquisition skills, basic Latin grammar rules for pronouns and verbs and an introduction into spoken Latin.

Our Latin curriculum is progressive and sequenced so that children further embed the fundamental principles of Latin as a language and build new learning as each lesson is completed. Years 3, and 4 will study books 1 and 2, Year 5 books 3 and 4 and Year 6 books 4, 5 and 6. With this structure, we feel that this is the most effective approach for children to retain knowledge and become confident linguists who have a deepened, layered understanding of Latin and further embedding writing skills.

The curriculum was developed alongside Maximum Classics, and follows a systematic, progressive course that correlates with our pedagogical approach as a school.

### **Curriculum Impact**

Our children will develop a deepened understanding of etymology; whilst extending their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge to ensure high proficiency in translation skills. This will enhance our children’s understanding of English, modern foreign languages and improve their writing.

The cultural aspect of our Latin curriculum will broaden their horizons through the lens of an ancient world and help them further understand the world in which we live in today.



## Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist Primary School

The classic literature studied will expose our children to a range of deep and meaningful texts that will further enhance their understanding of the modern world.

Studying Latin will give our children even higher expectations of themselves and give them encouragement as they develop their understanding and proficiency in speaking and language skills, classical studies, history and further enhance social mobility.