St. John's C. of E.

Blackpool's First Free School 1817

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy

'In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.'
Matthew 7:12

Be Kind Be Forgiving Be a Good Friend Be Honest Love One Another

Be part of our St John's family!

Updated: Sept 2023 Next review due: Sept 2026

Introduction

Our school Modern Foreign Languages policy sets out a framework within which teaching and support staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment. It should be read in conjunction with the National Curriculum, which sets out what the children will be taught. This document is designed for all teaching staff, all staff with classroom responsibilities, school governors, inspection teams and LA adviser/inspectors. Electronic copies are available for all teachers and teaching support staff via Google Drive. Copies can be made available, on request, to supply / trainee teachers, governors and parents. Policies can also be found on our school website and paper copies are available in the Policy folder held in the main office.

'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'

(National Curriculum September 2013)

This policy reflects the ethos of school as expressed in our Mission Statement:

"Everyone Matters in God's World."

and also promotes, recognises, celebrates and welcomes diversity, honesty, respect and tolerance. This is rooted in our theological Christian vision:
'In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.' Matthew 7:12

Aims

The overall aim for Modern Foreign Languages is to enrich learning for all pupils and to ensure that teachers develop confidence and competence to teach MFL and use MFL effectively in their teaching of other subjects.

The teaching staff aim by the time a child leaves St John's CE Primary School they will have been encouraged to:

- To increase linguistic competence through regular timetabled MFL sessions throughout Key Stage Two;
- To make cultural links and experiences when opportunities arise;
- To promote positive attitudes towards language learning through a range of learning activities;
- To develop speaking and listening skills.

Speaking and Listening

The children will:

- Encounter a range of situations, audiences and activities designed to develop competence, accuracy and confidence in speaking and listening.
- Develop their oral abilities at their own levels.

- Develop listening and comprehension skills through a variety of means to include both reciprocal and non-reciprocal situations;
- Be able to express opinions, articulate feelings and formulate appropriate responses to increasingly complex instructions and questions.

Reading

The children will be given opportunities to:

- Read stories for enjoyment and to practise new vocabulary;
- Read stories to gain awareness of the structure of written Spanish and begin to learn the grapheme-phonic relationships

Writing

The children will be given the opportunities to:

- Experiment with the writing of simple words and phrases-copy writing and write some single familiar words from memory;
- Write sentences using word and phrase cards;
- Write a sentence following a model but changing one or two words in the sentence.

Curriculum and School Organisation

Whilst there is a strong focus on language learning skills (transferable to learning any new language) Spanish is taught on a weekly basis (30 mins up to an hour) in Key Stage Two classes to ensure progression and a smooth transition into high school.

Children in Key Stage Two classes are taught specific skills, concepts and vocabulary in a weekly dedicated Spanish lesson.

Key Stage Two classes use a range of resources including 'Language Angels' which outlines topics which are to be covered in each year group.

Teaching and Learning

All Spanish lessons have clear learning questions which are shared and reviewed with the pupils effectively throughout the lesson.

A variety of strategies are used by teachers and support staff including questioning, discussion, games and marking which are also used to assess the children's progress. The information is used to identify next steps in the children's learning.

When appropriate, lessons make effective links with other curriculum areas and subjects, especially English, Maths and computing. When appropriate, links are made with current curriculum topics.

Activities are challenging, thought-provoking, motivating and extend pupil's learning and enjoyment of the subject.

Teachers plan Spanish units of work using the 'Language Angels' website. All of the lessons are carefully planned and linked to the Primary National Curriculum to ensure coverage. Lessons are evaluated by the teacher or member of support staff teaching the Spanish lesson which informs their future planning and allows ongoing assessment to take place.

The recording of Spanish can take various forms including:

- Photos (taken by pupils or adults)
- Whole class 'Pink' evidence books
- Children's Spanish exercise books.
- Classroom displays/Working walls in the classrooms
- Use of ICT (playing Language Angels Spanish games & listening to Spanish songs)
- Comments/observations by children, recorded by adults in the classroom.

Resources

A wide range of Spanish resources are available in school and located in the KS2 classrooms. These include children's reference books, Spanish dictionaries, story books in Spanish, Spanish word vocabulary mats, Spanish games and Spanish Christmas activities.

The MFL subject leader is responsible for maintaining resources, monitoring their use and organising storage. Resource purchasing is in accordance with normal school procedures and is based upon the MFL budget.

Assessment

Most assessment is ongoing and informative. The assessment is used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. Teachers and support staff delivering the Spanish lessons record their observations/evaluations on their medium term plans based on their achievement of the learning questions in lessons. These informal assessments will be used to identify gifted linguists and those children requiring extra support. This information is shared with the next class teacher.

Extra-curricular opportunities

There are opportunities for children in Key Stage Two to take part in 'Spanish Week' once a year. They are given the opportunity to work with other classes and teachers. Parents are also invited into school to share this with their children. The children also take part in the annual 'International Languages Day' and enjoy a range of different Spanish activities throughout the academic year.

Monitoring

The MFL subject leader regularly monitors skills and progression throughout Key Stage Two. A selection of work is collected and moderated in staff meetings and in subject leader time. A summary of MFL attainment, teaching of skills and further developments are recorded annually to inform subsequent school development plans. Feedback is given by the MFL subject leader to individual teachers and support staff celebrating successes and giving clear next steps.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers have an important role to play in helping their children to learn another language. Their role is enhanced by the use of Spanish displays around the school to raise their interest and the interest of their children in the subject. There is also a section on the school website about MFL throughout KS2.

Leadership and Management

The role of the MFL subject leader is to

- Manage the implementation of the MFL school policy;
- Update the MFL policy when necessary and scheme of work;
- Produce a KS2 overview of Language Angels Spanish topics; share overviews with KS2 teachers and support staff who deliver Spanish lessons;
- Order/update/allocate Spanish resources when needed;
- Identify need and arranging INSET so that all KS2 staff are confident in how to teach and assess the subject and have sufficient subject knowledge;
- Make staff aware of new subject developments and changes to the MFL curriculum;
- Ensure continuity between year groups and that progression is taking place;
- Support members of staff in developing pupils' capability;
- Attend appropriate courses/training to update knowledge of current developments;
- Contribute to the School Development Plan on an annual basis;
- Report to governors termly