Languages Curriculum Statement

Intent

*‘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.’*

*(National Curriculum 2014 – Appendix A)*

At St Anne’s we believe that the learning of a language is an integral part of the curriculum and should be made accessible to every child at St Anne’s. It helps children to celebrate languages that they use themselves and aids them with communication and verbal precision.

At St Anne’s we intend to give our children knowledge of the ancient Latin language in order to enable them to make links with global languages. Latin is a language that has formed the basis for many modern languages and the English we predominantly speak today. Here at St Anne’s we believe it is vital for our children to understand where our language has originated from and how it has developed over the years. By understanding this language in more detail, it enables our children to make strong links with grammar and spelling therefore helping their reading and writing to also improve across all subject areas. At our school we feel that this is particularly important.

Research has proven that Latin helps with sentence structure and with knowledge of word placement within sentences. It will give our children a solid understanding of nouns, pronouns, verbs and adjectives which are used daily, along with many other aspects of writing. As well as this, Latin gives children a strong base for the future learning of more modern foreign languages as their sentence structures are similar and many of their words have originated from Latin.

Through Latin at St Anne’s, we aim to broaden our children’s knowledge of languages.  Our curriculum is based on the framework provided by the National Curriculum, alongside a more comprehensive scheme of work for Latin ‘Minimus’.

The Latin knowledge builds sequentially through each unit, so that the children embed and deepen their knowledge over time. We believe that the learning of a language is an integral part of the curriculum. Our curriculum is based on the framework provided by the National Curriculum. It provides valuable education, social and cultural experiences for our children. We chose to implement an ancient language in order to give our children a deeper understanding of how language works. It helps them to develop communication skills, including key skills of speaking and listening. Learning an ancient language gives our children a better perspective of the origins of words and gives the children the opportunity to make cross-curricular links to other vital subjects. Through language we are helping to equip our pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

We aim to build high levels of competence in the subject specific skills of:

* To foster an interest in learning other languages
* To introduce children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun
* To make historical links with the Romans and give children a deeper understanding of vocabulary
* To make children aware that language has structure and that structure can differ from one language to another
* To develop their speaking and listening skills
* To lay the foundations for future study of ancient language

Implementation

Latin is taught through the framework of the 2014 National Curriculum, using a more detailed scheme of work developed by Minimus and using aspects of Maximum Classics. Latin is taught in all KS2 classes from year 3 - Year 6. Each class has weekly lessons which will last for 30 minutes. During lessons the greatest emphasis will be given to speaking and listening but children will also be expected to write key phrases and sentences as learning develops.

Lessons will be adapted to cater to all learning needs within the classroom and will include:

* learning Latin vocabulary
* Asking and answering questions
* Teaching of basic Latin grammar and spelling patterns
* Playing games and learning songs
* Using language that has been taught in role play situations
* Researching and learning all about the Romans
* Beginning to write phrases and sentences

Teachers are encouraged to take a cross-curricular approach to teaching languages, and this approach works especially well in embedding the children’s historical understanding of Roman Britain and making links to British values. Each class has a set of pupil books created by Minimus for beginners of Latin and a teachers handbook. We have also bought a range of books to support classes in making those cross-curricular links.

Most assessment is formative and used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. Assessments are through oral questioning and based on the Learning Objectives from the Key Stage 2 Framework for languages. After each 4 unit chunk the children will complete a written assessment/quiz in order to progress further and ensure understanding has been embedded.

Impact

Through the high quality first teaching of Latin taking place we will see the impact of the subject in the following ways:

* Children will be able to communicate with each other in Latin.
* A high quality of Languages education feeds into many other areas of the curriculum. Skills and knowledge gained are particularly relevant to RE, English and History.
* Children will become aware that a language has a structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another.
* Children will develop their language through development of the four key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.
* Children will extend their vocabulary by making links to English words that we use today, which are rooted from Latin.
* Children will enrich their language learning by developing an understanding of the history of the Roman Empire.
* Children will learn how language skills can be applied to a range of languages.
* Latin will also embed our catholic ethos as prayers will be learnt and the children will have better understanding of Latin hymns and spoken latin in Mass.
* The languages curriculum here at St Anne’s provides the foundations for learning further languages.