



Policy for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Introduction

At St. Cross, we recognise that learning a modern foreign language is an entitlement for all pupils during their time in primary education and we are committed to the principle that learning another language helps foster a curiosity and deeper understanding of other cultures and prepares pupils to participate in a rapid and changing world.

We teach foreign languages from Reception all the way through to Year 6 as part of our normal school Curriculum. We believe that learning to understand, speak, read and write another language will provide the basis for future study and work in other countries. We also believe the skills and vocabulary acquired from learning a foreign language promotes initiative, confidence and independency.

Language teaching starts in Reception and KS1, who have weekly timetabled session of around 10 to 15 minutes, learning Spanish. KS2 pupils also have a regular timetabled session for MFL of around 45 minutes per week and learn Spanish.

Aims and Objectives

Our aims when teaching a modern foreign language at St. Cross School are:

- to foster an interest in learning other languages;
- to deliver activities which meet the needs of the Curriculum, in a way that is appropriate to the needs of all pupils and which challenge and encourage them to fulfil their potential;
- to introduce pupils to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- to make pupils aware that language has a structure and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- to develop pupil's speaking and listening skills;
- to broaden vocabulary;
- to appreciate stories, songs, poems and the essence of culture;
- to speak in sentences and write phrases from memory;
- to understand basic grammar, e.g. nouns, masculine and feminine forms etc.;
- to help pupils develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- to lay the foundation for further study at KS3.

Teaching and Learning

We recognise that language learning in its broadest sense has three core strands:

- learning to communicate (with the emphasis on oracy, i.e. listening, speaking and interacting);
- learning about language (reading and writing in the foreign language and learning about the writing system, spelling and structure of the language);
- learning about and comparing different cultures (inter-cultural understanding).



At St. Cross we aim to equip our pupils with strategies to help them learn a new language and remember key vocabulary. These strategies include playing games, role-play and listening to songs to reinforce memory (particularly action songs). We listen to recordings and model in order to teach pronunciation. We emphasise the importance of listening and speaking skills in order to progress to acquire reading and writing skills. We build long term memory by starting some sessions with a 'Sticky Starter' to revisit key vocabulary or recapping vocabulary from last lesson. Overall, we want to build confidence and positivity into each lesson to encourage deep learning.

Equal opportunities

We recognise that there are pupils of widely different abilities in all classes and we ensure that we provide suitable learning opportunities for all pupils by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- enabling pupils to work in mixed ability pairs/groups;
- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- providing resources/tasks of different complexity;
- using classroom assistants if present to support the work of individual pupils or groups of children.

MFL Curriculum and Planning

St. Cross uses the Language Angels across the school. Our planning gives details of topic and unit coverage, grammar and core language for each unit of work. The teachers are responsible for the lesson plans and preparation for each lesson. Class teachers are encouraged to take opportunities throughout the teaching day to embed the language by using it at incidental times such as taking the register, writing the Spanish date on the board (KS2).

Alongside the weekly lessons we hold a Cultural Day, once a year, to immerse the pupils in Spanish culture. Each class takes part in a range of activities from Flamenco dancing workshops, crafts, food tasting, learning about artists, listening and reading Spanish stories.

At St. Cross we believe that learning another language presents opportunities for the reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other curriculum areas. These opportunities can be exploited through aspects of;

- **English:** development of speaking and listening skills, knowledge and understanding of grammar and sentence construction.
- **Maths:** counting, calculations, time, days of the week, months of the year and money.
- **Science:** work on parts of the body, animals, diet / food.
- **R.E.:** international and multicultural work, celebration of festivals, storytelling, calendars, customs.
- **Computing:** use of materials from the internet, camera /video, audio, interactive games including App's, presentation and word processing.
- **PHSE:** the multilingual society, knowledge of other countries and cultures.
- **Geography:** work relating to the study of countries, points in a compass and the weather.



- **History:** work relating to the study of other countries, family trees and famous people.
- **Art:** looking at famous paintings and lives of Italian artists.
- **P.E.:** dance, active and physical games and listening and responding to instructions.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Assessment is formative and is used to support teaching and learning and to inform future planning. We use Target Tracker statements and teacher judgement to assess the children's progress during lessons in these areas:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

These judgements are recorded on 'Feedback Marking' forms at the end of each lesson and then uploaded to Target Tracker at the end of each term.

Formal attainment information is shared with parents once a year in the pupil's end of year report.

Verbal feedback is used in the lessons to support learning and progress.

Resources

We have a class set of Spanish dictionaries for all classes to use if they are required. All other resources are online, available on the Language Angels website.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of the MFL subject leader to monitor the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in MFL through book looks, pupil voice and drop ins. The MFL subject leader is also responsible for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. Through an Action Plan the MFL subject leader gives the head teacher a termly plan of action which s/he sets out termly objectives to meet in order to improve standards in MFL.

Review

This policy has been considered by Staff and Governors of St. Cross Catholic Primary School and will be reviewed annually.

