

**St. Paschal Baylon
Catholic Primary School**



St Paschal Baylon
Catholic Primary School
—+—
Following In The Footsteps Of Christ
—

Modern Foreign Languages Policy

Rationale

Learning a language enriches the curriculum. It provides excitement, enjoyment and challenge for children and teachers, helping to create enthusiastic learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning throughout life. The natural links between languages and other areas of the curriculum can enhance the overall teaching and learning experience. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained make a major contribution to the development of children's oracy and literacy and to their understanding of their own culture(s) and those of others. Language also lies at the heart of ideas about individual identity and community, and learning another language can do a great deal to shape children's ideas in this critical area as well as giving them a new perspective on their own language.

In particular, language learning:

- stimulates children's creativity
- leads to gains across the curriculum
- supports oracy and literacy
- supports and celebrates the international dimension
- liberates children from insularity, fosters pupil's curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world.

Aims

- To capitalise on the ability of young pupils to rapidly acquire passive and active knowledge of another language
- Where possible and relevant, to embed the language into the main primary curriculum
- To broaden the cultural awareness of the pupils and to foster positive attitudes to language learning, speakers of other languages and other cultures
- To create confident language learners who enjoy languages, who can express their thoughts and ideas in another language and can understand and respond to its speakers both in speech and writing
- To use the target language in the lessons as much as possible
- For the school to be able to deliver the curriculum for primary languages using specialist teachers on the staff or from outside agencies, with the support of the School Improvement Liverpool MFL team

The Role of the MFL Subject Leader

- Liaise with the specialist language teacher (SLT), class teachers and School Improvement MFL team to timetable and co-ordinate MFL lessons.
- Where possible, to support staff in delivering follow-up MFL by providing resources and informing them of any training opportunities.
- Attend any central training and meetings as appropriate and disseminate information back to staff.
- Monitoring of MFL lessons.
- Co-ordinate festivals/celebrations and any other MFL events in school.
- Liaise with secondary schools re transition from KS2 – KS3.

The Role of the Specialist Language Teacher

- The SLT will plan their lessons based on the new National Curriculum and will provide resources for the lesson. They will provide the class teacher and co-ordinator with half-termly planning at the beginning of each term and where appropriate will leave work/resources for the class teacher to follow on their lesson.
- They may do an assessment form with the pupils, which can be completed in class time and kept on file by the class teacher/MFL co-ordinator.
- When pupils are ready, the SLT will provide written work at an appropriate level. This should largely be marked in class by the SLT. The SLT should be informed of the marking policy in school in order to comply with the school's requirements.
- SLTs can provide a bank of report comments which can be used by class teachers for annual reports.

Inclusion

All pupils are equally valued, including those who need extra support for a range of educational needs and more able pupils.

To ensure that all pupils recognise and fulfil their potential the following strategies for differentiation are employed:

- use of visual aids / gesture
- choral and individual repetition
- physical responses to questions
- open and closed questions

- multiple choice questions
- tasks with small, clearly identified steps
- practical activities
- higher achievers encouraged to lead specific language tasks
- use of SLT, classroom assistant or class-teacher to support some learners
- appropriate pupil groupings
- differentiated written work

Learning a language in the primary phases should be a positive experience for all pupils. Differentiation is essential if all pupils are to regularly experience success. Every opportunity is taken to enable pupils to progress according to their abilities.

Methodology

The learning of a foreign language should be enjoyable and relevant for all pupils and a variety of approaches and activities should be used to challenge, motivate and sustain interest.

Lessons will be interactive and will provide an appropriate balance of spoken and written language and should lay the foundations for further foreign language teaching at Key Stage 3. The focus will be on practical communication. Lessons should enable pupils to understand and communicate ideas, facts and feelings in speech and writing.

Approaches and activities include:

- almost exclusive use of the foreign language during lessons
- providing opportunities in each lesson for pupils to use and practise what they have learned
- language games to enhance motivation, contextualise learning and heighten enjoyment
- learning songs, rhymes and stories
- focus on grammatical structures and phonology
- pair work and group work
- use of authentic materials
- use of ICT where relevant and appropriate – for example commercially produced software, teacher produced resources, internet research and use of the interactive whiteboard
- written activities to reinforce learning
- (where applicable) correspondence with partner schools focusing on cultural differences and similarities