

## **MFL Curriculum Intent:**

The intention of our MFL curriculum is to ensure children are taught to develop an interest in learning other languages in a way that is enjoyable and stimulating. We encourage children's confidence and creative skills.

By teaching them a second language we hope to help them build bridges to other cultures and therefore help them develop socially and give them the opportunity to develop their inquisitive minds. We aim to improve pupil's understanding of their native language therefore developing their emotional connection to their native language and culture. We aspire to introduce students to alternative ways of expressing themselves and to different cultures and to give them a greater understanding and appreciation of the customs and achievements of people beyond their own communities.

We strive to Integrate Spanish in some other areas of the curriculum as learning through a language makes learning exciting, diverse and appealing in order to give the pupils many opportunities to excel and to provide them with more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and a better ear for listening.

By teaching them essential skills used to understand and decode a foreign language we intent to give our pupils a head start in language requirements for high school and beyond, consequently setting the foundation for a whole world of exciting opportunities for the pupils. We endeavour to embed the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills necessary to enable children to use and apply their Spanish learning in a variety of contexts and lay the foundations for future language learning.

## **Implementation:**

Integrating Spanish in some other areas of the curriculum challenges the pupils on applying their previous knowledge in a different language. This also makes the lessons more interesting and pupils enjoy learning that way.

Spanish activities such as trips abroad, Spanish cafe, writing to the penpals, taking part in international projects, integrating Spanish in cross curricular lessons and learning about other cultures through a language makes learning exciting, diverse and appealing which give the pupils many opportunities to excel and provides them with more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and a better ear for listening.

The teaching of MFL emphasis on familiarising children with the sounds and speech patterns of the new language, ensuring they enjoy listening to and joining in with a range of songs, poems and stories, and develop their confidence, imagination and self-expression. Pupils are exposed to a variety of voices, which may include the class teacher, visiting native speakers, audio CDs, cassettes and use websites and CDRoms, DVDs or videos.

They are taught to ask and answer a wide range of questions and memorise and present short texts such as finger rhymes, poems, songs, role-plays or stories. Children are encouraged to listen attentively and learn to identify the main points from a short passage of several sentences as well as learn how to express a simple opinion and join in a short conversation.

Having penpals stimulates our pupils to enjoy reading a few familiar words and phrases aloud and begin experiment with writing some familiar words from memory. They are also made aware of cognates to help them find the meaning of words. Pupils are taught sentence formation with use of verbs, adjectives, articles and nouns. They are also taught plural formation as well as gender association.

By taking part in international projects they learn to write some short, simple sentences from memory and continue to develop their writing skills by constructing short texts using a model. They also compare attitudes of different cultures. Through the projects children discuss aspects of daily life which they have in common with children in different countries. They look at the similarities and differences between their own locality and that of another country. Children also learn about symbols, objects and products that represent countries.

To improve their speaking skills pupils are filmed occasionally so that they can self-assess their pronunciation and understand their weaknesses and strength.

Pupils with SEND have access to a range of books, games, videos, songs and iPads apps which are in line with the class planning but are more accessible to them. They are also taken into consideration when planning themed week, cinemas, trips and workshops. Ensuring that they are able to take part in all activities and are able to learn at their own pace.

## **Impact:**

Children become more aware of simple structures and conventions. They begin to share their knowledge about language and develop some techniques for memorising and using the language. They further develop their recognition of pattern and their ability to manipulate language. Children become more confident users of language, reflecting on their knowledge about language and using this to make meanings that matter to them. They develop greater independence in applying language learning strategies and in transferring language from one context to another.

Furthermore, learning a language in primary has positive effect on intellectual growth and enriches and enhances a child's mental development. Pupils learn to be more independent and develop life skills in a safe and monitored environment. As pupils are encouraged to read for themselves and to an audience it increases their confidence and improve their oracy and pronunciation.

Having penpals reinforces building bridges between cultures and open doors to new friendships helping them develop socially. They become more aware of different cultures, other people and other points of view.

Learning a new language gives the pupils the ability to communicate with people they would otherwise not have the chance to communicate with. Spanish is spoken in over 30 countries and by 399 million people. It is the second most spoken language by native speakers. Learning Spanish is definitively an important life skill which will help our pupils succeed in many different environments.

Pupils who receive second language instruction are more likely to be more creative and better at solving complex problems.

By taking part in the Trip to Spain and France pupils learn to be more independent and develop life skills in a safe and monitored environment.