

Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum Policy



Date of review	December 2019	December 2020	December 2021
Signed Staff	Craig Hayward-Mitchell		
Signed Governor			

Aims and Objectives

At John Clifford School, we recognise that learning a modern foreign language is a statutory entitlement for all pupils during their time in Key Stage 2. We are committed to the principle that learning another language helps foster a curiosity and deeper understanding of other cultures and the world in general. We believe that learning to understand, speak, read and write another language during Key Stage 2 will provide the basis for learning other languages, which in turn will provide important opportunities for future study and work in other countries. At John Clifford School, we teach Spanish.

Our main objectives in the teaching of Spanish are to promote the development of linguistic competence and confidence in speaking and writing, as well as an understanding and awareness of the world and other cultures. To accomplish this, we help the children to do the following:

- familiarise themselves with the sounds and written form of Spanish;
- develop particular language-learning skills;
- begin to understand a new language and communicate in it;
- make comparisons between languages;
- learn about different countries and their people;
- develop a positive attitude towards the learning of foreign languages in general;
- use their knowledge of the foreign language with growing confidence, both to understand what they hear and read, and to express themselves in speech and writing;
- acquire, through all of the above, a sound basis for further study at Key Stage 3 and beyond.

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).

We will encourage pupils to apply knowledge already learnt about their own language to their learning of the new language. We aim to equip pupils with strategies for language learning that they can use in the future when studying other foreign languages. We base our teaching on the National Curriculum

programme of study and the 'Speekee' Spanish languages programme. We have adapted this to the context of our school and the abilities of our children.

We use a variety of techniques to encourage children to engage actively in learning Spanish. These include games, role-play, songs and rhymes (particularly action songs). We may use videos, sound recordings and songs to demonstrate the language and for the pupils to hear more than one voice speaking language. We frequently use mime to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language, as this teaches the language without the need for translation.

We teach skills in all four strands of language – listening, speaking, reading and writing. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching to reinforce memory. We aim to make lessons entertaining and enjoyable in order to develop a positive attitude to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution that they make in the foreign language, however tentative. We allow for differentiation by:

- using peer support;
- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- providing resources of different complexities, matched to the ability of the child.

Organisation

We teach Spanish to children throughout the school. The lessons have been planned with support and guidance from the 'Speekee' languages programme and our Spanish specialist teacher. In addition, class teachers are expected to take opportunities throughout the teaching day to embed the language by using it at incidental times such as taking the register, as well as playing simple games.

Our Curriculum

Spanish is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school. We use the 'Speekee' Spanish language programme. This provides long and medium term planning. Short term planning is completed on a lesson by lesson basis, showing the specific learning objectives and expected outcomes. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ask and answer questions;
- use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- memorise words;
- interpret meaning;

- understand appropriate grammar;
- write at an appropriate level (words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs);
- use a dual language dictionary;
- look at life in another culture.

Modern Foreign Languages and Inclusion

At John Clifford School, we teach Spanish to all children, whatever their ability. A modern foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. We strive to meet the needs of all of our pupils, and our Single Equality Policy encompasses the wide range of learners at our school.

The contribution of MFL to teaching in other curriculum areas

English - The learning of a modern foreign language naturally contributes to the development of our children's listening and speaking skills. It also develops the children's grasp of linguistic features such as rhyme, rhythm, stress and intonation, supports the understanding of various aspects of grammar and emphasises the importance of knowing the role of different word types in sentence structure.

Mathematics - Children reinforce their time-telling skills by playing time-related games in the foreign language. We play number games that reinforce counting and calculation skills, expand their understanding of date and increase their knowledge about money.

Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship - One of the main benefits to the children of learning a modern foreign language at primary school level is a social one. Those children who have difficulty in reading and writing, but who have good aural skills, will often find that they excel at speaking in foreign languages. This success breeds confidence, which in turn increases self-esteem and gives them a more positive attitude to school in general.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural education (SMSC) - By teaching a modern foreign language, we contribute to the children's cultural education. They learn that many societies are multi-lingual. We teach them about festivals and customs related to the countries in which the language is spoken. We also give them the chance to hear stories set in the foreign culture.

Geography - We ask the children to do research on the different countries in which the particular foreign language is spoken after they have first found them on a map or a globe. In MFL lessons children will learn about the climate of the countries in which the language is spoken.

Music - We teach children songs in the modern foreign language, both traditional and modern, which of course helps them develop a sense of rhythm and an ear for melody.

History - We teach children about traditional festivals of the countries whose language we are studying and compare them to ours.

Science - Children reinforce their knowledge of parts of the body through related games, such as a Spanish version of "Simon Says", or "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes". They also learn about typical Spanish food.

Art & DT - Children use a variety of Art & DT skills to present their knowledge and understanding, e.g. menus, fact files, comic strips, posters and booklets.

PE - We teach children active games that require fast reactions, for example, Spanish versions of "Simon Says" and "Corners".

Assessment

We assess the children's progress by making informal judgements during lessons or through the work the pupils produce, against the attainment targets set out in the National Curriculum 2014. Marking and verbal feedback provide guidance to help progress. At relevant times, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the attainment of each pupil in relation to the skills set out in the National Curriculum programme of study.

Resources

A good stock of Spanish and other modern foreign language resources are kept in the Library.

Monitoring and review

The coordination and planning of the MFL curriculum are the responsibility of the subject leader, currently Craig Hayward-Mitchell, who also supports colleagues in their teaching, by keeping informed about current developments in the subject and providing a strategic lead and direction for this subject.