

“Purpose of study

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. 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. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.”

-The National Curriculum in England: Key stages 1 and 2 Framework Document. September 2013

Context:

The KS2 classes have been language learners. The school is a one form entry school with approximately 90 pupils across KS2. The first language of the majority of pupils in the school is English. There are also a number of pupils who have Cantonese as their first language.

Intent

At school we believe that the learning of a language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them to develop communication skills, including key skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. The children’s knowledge of how language works will be developed and extended. Lessons will enable pupils to make substantial progress in one language. The linguistic skills gained will assist and lay foundations for further language learning. It will provide pupils with the confidence and independence to explore and be able to attempt manipulation of the structure of language. Learning another language gives children a new and broader perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others.

Implementation

Children in KS2 learn German. We have recently moved from a 2 – year programme of learning German in Year 3 and 4 and French in Year 5 and 6 to learning German across all four-year groups. This enables the learner to build on the success on previous years and show their progression skills and knowledge.

In KS2 children are taught by their class teacher for 30 minutes per week and school aims to follow up activities when appropriate outside of the language lesson. Teachers are supported by a native speaker e.g. team teaching of lessons. Teachers follow the Scheme of Work set out by the Primary Languages Network. These are differentiated but follow the same structure and content for non-native speakers and native speakers, therefore providing support for non – native speakers.

The subject is managed by the Languages Co-ordinator. To ensure the language skills of staff are developed and sustained the school are members of the Primary Languages Network. This provides all the materials, resources and support sound files and activities to enable the school to ensure progression in language learning across the four core skills and also the DfE 12 Attainment Targets. The co-ordinator will advise, work with and guide staff and the visiting specialist teacher when required.

Our school follows the Primary Languages Network scheme of work but it is adapted to fit within our context and our pupils. It is a live scheme which is continually updated and revised in order to meet with current curriculum standards. Alongside the planning provided, the network also enriches this through accompanying PowerPoints, podcasts (spoken by native speakers) links to authentic literature, songs, games, culture points of reference and links to appropriate websites.

To promote an active learning of languages a range of teaching methods are implemented to ensure that the children are developing their linguistic skills through listening, speaking, reading and writing in order to be secondary ready. Activities can consist of actions, rhymes, stories, song, drama, grammar focus, video clips, air writing, sentence structure, dictionary work, book-making and many more creative ways to extend, embed and combine language skills.

Impact

Currently assessment is informal across the four language skills and the progress made in these throughout KS2.

The lead teacher discusses language learning with the visiting teacher and monitors planning, and spoken and written evidence of progress in learning. The school is working toward effective progress across the four years of KS2. The lead teacher can access training in monitoring via the PLN VLE, consultation time, email discussion and at coordinator CPD.

The MFL coordinator attends, (as part of the Primary Languages Network) coordinators' CPD and the annual PLN conference. The MFL coordinator is a member of the network email group and can access the PLN Twitter account, the PLN website (<https://primarylanguages.network/>), network blog sites and the PLN VLE blog to obtain current and up to date information. All staff have access to the PLN VLE, all its materials, and lesson by lesson planning. The PLN VLE school user files can be used to share information between staff and the visiting teacher.