

Hunts Cross Primary School

Primary MFL 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 international diversity
- Liberates children from insularity and 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 the support of School Improvement Liverpool's MFL team.

The Role of the MFL Subject Leader

- Liaise with class teachers to timetable and co-ordinate MFL lessons.
- To support staff in delivering MFL by providing resources and current Schemes of Work.
- Attend any central training and meetings as appropriate and disseminate information back to staff.
- Monitoring of MFL lessons and write Action Plan at the end of the academic year.
- Co-ordinate festivals/celebrations and any other MFL events in school.

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 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 classroom assistant or class-teacher to support some learners
- appropriate pupil groupings
- written work

Learning a language in the primary phase should be a positive experience for all pupils. 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 and 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