

Languages Rationale



“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.

Vision:

A high quality languages education should foster children’s curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world.

At St Brendan’s Catholic Primary School, we believe that learning a foreign language should be enjoyable, engaging and purposeful whilst enabling the pupils to make substantial progress in the target language. Learning a language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils whilst also laying the foundations for further language learning. We have chosen Spanish as our main language because of the number of Spanish speakers around the world. Through studying Modern Foreign Languages pupils will develop an understanding of different cultures around the world as well as tolerance and acceptance of these cultures. Pupils will also develop their resilience, confidence and skills to communicate with others via both written and spoken language.

Organisation:

Spanish is taught from years 1 to 6 as part of the normal curriculum, year 1 and 2 follow the KS1 curriculum where they are introduced to a new language through 20 minutes of Spanish once a week, they have the opportunity to become language detectives and develop their speaking and listening skills through song, rhyme and stories. The lessons stimulate and encourage children’s curiosity about language in a way that is enjoyable and fun. Studies by Harvard University, suggest that exposing young children to a range of ways communicating, including through two or more languages helps to enhance the flexibility and creativity of the mind.

In KS2 our year groups are split into year 3 /4 and 5/6, both groups are currently following stage 1 of the Spanish Curriculum on programme A. Pupils receive a 40 to 45-minute lesson where they develop their speaking and listening skills through working in pairs and groups as well as beginning to write from memory.

Management and Training:

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 Curriculum:

Our school follows the Primary Languages Network scheme of work. 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 power points, pod casts (spoken by native speakers) links to authentic literature, songs, games, culture points of reference, links to appropriate websites.

In KS2 we are currently following the mixed aged class scheme of work which is on a two-year rolling programme. This is balanced and sequenced appropriately in order to develop the attributes and qualities needed to understand and participate confidently in Spanish and reach the end of Key Stage expectations. Spanish is broken down into 4 areas; reading, listening, speaking and writing. All four areas are covered in KS2 and are taught so that pronunciation and accuracy are achieved.

Teaching and Learning:

To promote an active learning of languages a range of teaching methods are implemented to ensure that the pupils are provided with the correct balance of spoken and written language. Children develop their linguistic skills through listening, speaking, reading and writing in order to be secondary ready. Pupils are taught to listen attentively to spoken language, join in and respond in words, phrases and short sentences. Patterns and sounds are explored through songs, games, rhymes and stories and the children are encouraged to answer questions, ask questions and hold simple conversations. Pupils are taught to talk about themselves, others and objects in the present tense, before developing their knowledge of grammatical structures to talk in the past and future tenses across a range of topics. All of the activities that are used in lessons are devised and introduced in a creative way so that they can extend, embed and combine language skills.

Assessment:

Assessment in Spanish consists of an end of unit assessment called Puzzle it Out. This gives pupils the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge whilst also identifying any misconceptions which the children may have. These misconceptions can be addressed immediately. Children continue to recall their knowledge in short bursts through sticky knowledge exercises to ensure the knowledge is held in the long-term memory.

Informal assessment also takes place throughout lessons where pupils are encouraged to use all 4 skills.

Continuing Personal Development:

We aim to develop teacher's confidence and competence to teach the target language and embed languages into the curriculum. This is achieved through access to the PLN VLE where they can participate in online CPD courses for each stage of the curriculum that they are teaching. The PLN also offer CPD each half term on upskilling for the topic that is being taught in class and using the VLE effectively. It is also achieved through CPD in staff meeting and observing good practice.

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 whats app group, the PLN website (<https://primarylanguages.network/>) 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 .