



Policy Document Title: Modern Foreign Language Policy

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Philosophy

Pupils learn a Modern Foreign Language in order to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of the target language
- develop language skills
- develop language - learning skills
- develop cultural awareness

During their studies of a Modern Foreign Language, it is hoped that they will come to appreciate the wider concept of language and to extend their awareness of their own language. MFL is taught in St. Vincent's with due regard to the school's Mission Statement and Equal Opportunities Policy.

Aims and Objectives

In this school the Modern Foreign Language taught at present are German and Spanish. The aims and objectives of the courses will be:

- To develop the capacity to use a modern foreign language for practical communication to a level appropriate to each pupil's abilities and expectations.
- To support the development of general language skills and to improve self-expression.
- To enhance the development of listening skills and to increase sensitivity to sounds and rhythms by providing pupils with opportunities to listen for sounds, to reproduce them, to respond to them, and to communicate with others.
- To foster awareness of the nature of language in general; to offer pupils the opportunity to experiment with the MFL and to recognise the importance of sounds and symbols and their relationship to meaning.

- To offer opportunities for insight into the languages and cultures of other people, to encourage a positive approach and attitude to language learning, and a sympathetic view of other cultures.
- To provide, in collaboration with other curriculum areas, a sound basis of life and study skills.
- To provide opportunities for the development of cross curricular skills such as ICT, communication, personal and social skills, literacy and numeracy, music, and physical education.

Spanish and German are both taught in accordance with the guidelines produced by the DfE

- To support the learning of basic concepts such as numeracy, time, space and colour.
- To increase personal and social skills by providing opportunities for pupils to work together within a new context of communication and interaction.
- To encourage independence and autonomy through the flexible use of resources.
- To offer each pupil a positive experience which presents them with the opportunity to experience personal success and enhanced self-esteem.
- To provide opportunities for all pupils in Key Stages 1-3 to experience success, a sense of achievement and increased self-confidence, in accordance with the school's equal opportunities policy. This year all students from KS2 and KS3 are currently studying Spanish. At Key Stage 4 MFL is an optional subject.
- To offer each pupil the opportunity to experience learning a new language in a manner which combines good practice with a flexible and individualised programme of study.

Spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

As a school we seek to provide spiritual, moral, social, and cultural learning in the experience of goodness, beauty, awe, wonder, questioning, respect for the world and for each other and the realisation that there is more to life than just our present existence.

At present, years 7-9 are taught:

- To respect differences in the classroom and the world with reference to a different culture
- The cultural background to the Spanish language
- The detail of religious, social, and family celebrations in Spanish-speaking countries.
- Environmental concerns and how they are being dealt with.
- The specifics of social issues that concern people in Spanish-speaking countries including unemployment, equal opportunities, family relationships and immigration and the range of responses to these issues
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Differentiation for Levels of Ability

Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups. Pupils are assessed at regular intervals throughout the year. This assessment informs differentiation of work and allows individual programmes of study to be prepared.

Pupils at Key Stages 1 and 2 have 1 lesson of Spanish per week. At Key stage 3, pupils have 2 lessons per week. At Key stage 4 this increases to 4 lessons per week.

Pupils work mainly with the 'Claro' course at Key Stage 3. We also use BBC bitesize as a resource and produce grammar and activity booklets for students to use.

Classroom Approaches

The classroom approach is based on:

- A generally relaxed approach to promote the idea of learning another language being enjoyable.
- The promotion of politeness and courtesy in oral work.
- The use of the target language wherever possible,

- A balance of the four elements/ skills of language work (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) wherever possible and appropriate in the content of each lesson and its subsequent follow-up work.
- An awareness of individual needs and problems.

Teaching Methods

A variety of teaching methods will be employed:

- Pair-work in role-play and conversation.
- Recordings providing pupils with the opportunity to hear and become accustomed to native speakers speaking unscripted and at normal speed to facilitate understanding of the spoken word and to develop good accents.
- Occasionally school will arrange contact with native language speakers.
- Authentic written material to accustom pupils to reading in the foreign language.
- Presentation by the teacher of grammatical points and the subsequent practice of these to facilitate productive skills in speaking and writing.
- Acting out situations in the foreign language.
- Identifying objects and situations from sound clues.
- Games and songs.

Progression

Progression according to ability should encompass the following:

- Improve their pronunciation, intonation, and fluency.
- Increase the speed of their response and the depth of their understanding.
- Deal with increasingly complex texts and tasks.
- Increase their ability to deal with unpredictable elements.
- Show increasing independence in language learning and use.
- Make more effective use of reference sources.
- Vary language to suit context, audience, and purpose.
- Deepen their understanding of grammar.

- Produce increasingly complex and accurate language.
- Widen their range of structures and vocabulary to deal with different topics and subject areas.
- Extend their understanding of the culture of the country or communities where the target language is spoken.

Marking and Assessment

- Work submitted for marking in all 4 Attainment Targets is discussed with pupils during or after marking.
- Main points and/or main errors are noted at the end of the work.
- Teachers keep records of pupils' achievement in the 4 Attainment Targets.
- Formal assessment normally takes place at the end of Units of Work.
- Assessment marks will be graded according to National Curriculum Levels and Accreditation Pathways.
- Assessed work (including recorded oral exercises) and marks will be kept.
- Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 are assessed through the accreditation modes of GCSE.
- All pupils have 3 sets of targets per year. they are assessed on these at a specified time.

Visual Impairment - Special Educational Needs

- Wherever possible 'real' materials and meaningful tactile and aural aids should be used to introduce and clarify new vocabulary & expressions and to prompt and encourage the use of the target language.
- When possible, explanations of new vocabulary are given in the target language encouraging further development of good listening skills - these are particularly important to people with a visual handicap who need to develop strategies to overcome the difficulties of not being able to learn incidentally through visual clues
- The German and Spanish Braille codes are systematically introduced and reinforced, in Attainment Targets 3 + 4.

- Oral work gives a good opportunity to promote awareness of general socially acceptable behaviour and norms, which blind children in particular, may not be aware of eg. turning towards the person addressing you or being addressed by you, keeping your head up when in conversation with others.

Cross Curricular Links

The MFL courses are linked to several other curriculum areas:

- Literacy - by widening vocabulary, sharpening grammatical concepts, and opening the area of idiom and other linguistic devices.
- History by referring to key periods in German and Spanish-speaking countries' histories and linking these to events in British history.
- Social Studies - by introducing students to German-speaking and Spanish-speaking societies and customs.
- ICT - students have access to computer programs which will help their studies.
- Multicultural Education - through an appreciation of 'the many distinct cultures found in German and Spanish-speaking countries as their main language and their customs.
- Geography by drawing pupils' attention to German and Spanish speaking countries in Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean, (e.g., Namibia, Latin America) and world events such as international sports competitions
- Citizenship
- PSHEE
- Numeracy by familiarising pupils with simple numbers 1-69 and the counting system, 70 – 100 and by teaching pupils how to use Euros, buying and selling and role-playing situations.