

## Modern Foreign Languages

### Intent

*'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.'* (National Curriculum 2014 – Appendix A).

At St James Church of England Primary School, we strive to prepare all our children to successfully aspire to a wealth of opportunities with curiosity and resilience embedded in all they do. We acknowledge the influence that Europe has on our lives and as the UK is becoming an increasingly multicultural society, we have a duty to provide our children with an understanding of other cultures and languages. Learning a language enriches the curriculum, providing 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 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

At St James', we believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. Secondly, we also believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. We also believe that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school, as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life.

### Implementation

We teach a foreign language to children in Key Stage 2. These classes are taught for 30 minutes in Lower Key Stage 2 and 45 minutes in Upper Key Stage 2 per week. Teachers use PlanIt French to deliver high quality French lessons and use physical resources from "Botte a Francais" to engage and support learners. In KS1, children are introduced to Modern Foreign Languages through the use of classroom routines (register), songs, games and ICT.

Teachers use a variety of the following techniques to encourage children to have an active engagement with MFL, nature curiosity:

- Games – in order to develop vocabulary through repetition, reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.
- Role-play – these should relate to the situations the children may find themselves in the future.
- Action songs and rhymes – to develop phonetic skills, memory skills and to further vocabulary.
- Puppets and toys – to be used to develop communication skills.
- Mime - to associate vocabulary with kinaesthetic learning.
- Reading and writing quality materials
- ICT programs and websites; the use of ICT to develop communication skills

We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence and ability to show resilience through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

### Impact

Through the high quality first teaching of MFL taking place we will see the impact of the subject in the following ways:

- Children will be able to communicate with each other in Spanish.
- Children will become aware that a language has a structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another.

- Children will develop their language through development of the four key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Children will enrich their language learning by developing an understanding of the Spanish culture.
- Children will learn how language skills can be applied to a range of languages.
- Children will transfer to KS3 effectively and successfully and will be well prepared to continue and develop their language skills.