

St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

MFL CURRICULUM STATEMENT



Intent

At St. Mary of the Angels, we endorse the National Curriculum view on foreign language learning, as a 'liberation from insularity' which 'provides an opening to other cultures.' At St Mary's we believe that the skills, knowledge and understanding gained through learning a language contribute to the development of children's oracy and literacy and to their understanding of their own culture and those of others. We believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the deeper the language in question is acquired. We believe that the early acquisition of Spanish will facilitate the learning of other foreign languages later in life. **Our taught language is Spanish.**

Implementation

Spanish is taught fortnightly across Key Stage 2, by our junior teachers – one of which has previous experience of working within a school in Granada, Spain. Our teachers in Key Stage 1 try to incorporate Spanish into their weekly routines by using simple greetings during the register, counting, etc.

We use the "Primary Languages Network" scheme of work to support the teaching and learning of Spanish. This provides clear progression for the development of speaking and listening and vocabulary acquisition. There are resources to support the teaching and learning opportunities for pupils. We use a variety of the following techniques to encourage children to have an active engagement with Spanish:

- ✓ **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, in the future.
- ✓ **Action songs and rhymes** – to develop phonetic skills, memory skills and to further vocabulary.
- ✓ **Reading and writing** quality materials.
- ✓ **Practical opportunities**, in a variety of media, helps pupils to embed their learning in a fun and memorable way.

In each classroom, we have a range of bilingual reading books to increase the children's exposure to language and we use these within our Spanish delivery which create cross-curricular learning opportunities to enhance language development e.g. exploring the Nativity story in Spanish. We plan and host a range of cultural and language development themed learning days, such as "Spanish Day" and during our Spanish lessons, we build children's confidence through praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

Through our curriculum delivery we strive for:

- high quality languages education, fostering a curiosity about language learning in our pupils
- pupils expressing ideas in another language; and listening to others in that native tongue
- comparing phonics & structures in different languages, with plenty of oracy and writing
- fostering a lifelong love in language learning, equipping pupils for future study and work opportunities abroad.

Impact

Currently our self-evaluation and pupil voice tell us that children really enjoy their Spanish lessons. Class books and pupil vocabulary books indicate to other stakeholders how well the children are achieving. Previously, through a link with our former headteacher, over 200 pupils have taken part in Spanish exchanges abroad. Many families have travelled to Pamplona and back, as part of this life changing experience and some families remain in regular contact with their Spanish exchanges.

Through the high-quality teaching of Spanish taking place we will continue to see the impact of the subject in the following ways:

- ✓ Children will become aware that a language has a structure, and structure differs from one language to another.
- ✓ Children will develop their language and communication 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 be well prepared to continue and develop their language skills in KS3.