



Rationale for our Foreign Languages Curriculum

Our Intent

At St. Mary of the Angels, we endorse the National Curriculum view on the teaching of foreign languages being 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, and our pillars of learning are: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing.**

Year 3

In Year 3, pupils are introduced to the sounds and rhythms of the target language. At this initial level, they can understand a few familiar spoken words and phrases, such as greetings and common classroom instructions. This stage also encourages oral skills, as they begin to say or repeat short phrases that can be understood by a sympathetic native speaker. Meanwhile, their early reading skills develop through recognition of familiar words, enabling them to read out loud with growing confidence. Writing emerges at this stage, where pupils copy and produce a handful of simple words or symbols, laying the groundwork for future literacy.

Year 4

Moving into Year 4, listening skills become more sophisticated. Pupils can understand a range of familiar phrases and listen for specific information, preparing them for more interactive scenarios. They can engage in simple question-and-answer exchanges, sharing basic information about themselves and their immediate environment. During this stage, learners start to recognise how pronunciation works, advancing their speaking skills further. Their reading comprehension improves, allowing them to match familiar sounds to written words, while writing sees them spelling familiar terms accurately and constructing simple sentences with minimal errors.

Year 5

In Year 5, learners develop a deeper understanding from spoken language; they grasp main points from conversations, requiring occasional repetition. Their speaking abilities flourish as they express opinions and participate in pre-prepared tasks such as presentations and role plays. In reading, they tackle short, written passages with clear scripts and learn to navigate bilingual dictionaries independently. Writing becomes more varied; learners craft personal responses of two to three sentences, displaying an awareness of nouns, adjectives, and basic verb conjugation.

Year 6

Year 6 equips pupils with the confidence to engage in more substantial conversations, where they better understand longer spoken passages and express their opinions more articulately. Their reading skills extend to comprehending longer texts, such as letters and stories, allowing deeper engagement with the language. Writing skills advance as pupils write short texts on familiar topics, experimenting with various grammatical structures while using reference materials as needed.

Enrichment

The teaching of Foreign Languages is further enriched through cultural immersion days across the whole school which incorporates geography, art, DT, music and PE skills. Further evidence can be found on our MfL website page here: <https://www.simaryoftheangels.co.uk/page/foreign-languages/87265>