



Thornaby Church of England Primary School

MFL Policy

Rationale

In our school we teach a foreign language to all KS2 children as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons. Firstly, 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.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are:

- to foster an interest in learning other languages
- to introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun
- to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- to develop their speaking and listening skills;
- to lay the foundations for future study.

The Curriculum

French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school. The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ask and answer questions;
- use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- memorise words;

interpret meaning;
understand basic
grammar; use dictionaries;
work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other
language; look at life in another culture.

Teaching and learning style

We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the primary language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs).

We frequently use mime/action to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language, as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation.

We emphasise the listening and speaking skills over the reading and writing skills. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, i.e. we try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory.

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 primary languages.

We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

Teaching a modern foreign language to children with special educational needs

At our school we teach a modern foreign language to all ks2 children, whatever their ability. A modern foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs.

When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of factors - classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, differentiation - so that we can take some additional or different action to enable the child to learn more effectively. This ensures that our teaching is matched to the child's needs.

We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in

learning a modern foreign language. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, for example, a playground game in a modern foreign language, we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

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