

# Modern Foreign Languages

**Intent** - What are we trying to achieve for our children in French?

At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School we aim to give the children in our care as wide a range of opportunities and experience as possible. We acknowledge the influence that Europe has on our lives and as the UK is becoming an increasingly multi-cultural society, we have a duty to provide our children with an understanding of other cultures and languages.

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. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.

We believe that learning a language enriches the curriculum, providing excitement, enjoyment and challenge for children and teachers, helping to create enthusiastic learners and to develop positive attributes to language learning throughout life. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained make a major contribution to the oracy and literacy and 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.

It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life. At St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, we believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language the faster the language in question is acquired. Therefore, we use incidental language learning in Key Stage 1 as well as weekly language lessons in Key Stage 2

### **Implementation** - How is the curriculum delivered?

We teach a foreign language to children from Year 3 to Year 6. Teachers use a variety of the following techniques to encourage children to have an active engagement with Languages:

- 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 also benefit from our native Spanish teacher in KS2 classrooms, in order to expose the children to more than one voice in the foreign language.
- 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 through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

### ***KS1/EYFS***

In KS1, children are introduced to Modern Foreign Languages through the use of classroom routines (register), songs, games and ICT. Children also participate in themed days such as European Day of Languages and important days in the French culture calendar.

### **Impact** - What difference is the curriculum making? How do you know whether pupils know what you think they know?

Children will be provided with opportunities to communicate with each other in the target language.

- Children will be given the opportunity to look at other languages –particularly if children are bi-lingual.
- Children will learn how language skills can be applied to a range of languages.
- To make young children aware that language has 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 culture.