

MFL Curriculum – Cotherstone Primary School

Intent

By learning Modern Foreign Languages, children develop tolerance and understanding of the world around them. Locally, County Durham is a diverse area, showcasing a myriad of cultures which children should be encouraged to learn about to promote pride in their own community, local heritage and British values.

Children in KS1 and EYFS will be introduced to languages through songs, rhymes and stories to generate interest and develop initial understanding before progressing to National Curriculum MFL content in KS2.

We aim to inspire and generate a love of languages and a thirst for learning through relevant learning experiences and practical activity wherever possible. By developing a love of language learning, we hope to start them on the route of learning a variety of languages as they get older so learning should be both relevant and fun.

We want their language learning to contribute to their knowledge as global citizens. We aim to create a stimulating and creative languages learning environment, to support their understanding of the world and the possibilities that are open to them in the wider world. We want them to develop their cultural knowledge to encourage respect of diversity and those in our world.

We want our children to be inspired by language learning and to give them confidence and good foundations so that they can build on learning in secondary school. It is important that they have opportunities to practise and engage in communication both oral and written and that they have access to a range of materials in the target language to create memorable learning experiences. Learning is sequenced to build knowledge, skills and vocabulary.

We want our children to be able to present ideas and information to a range of audiences, including our target language partner schools. By sharing our learning, we aim to inspire courage to achieve our best and encourage seeking to do better.

Implementation

Children are taught French in KS2 using the EasyMFL Programme which is broken up into topics which cover the National Curriculum four strands of MFL whilst also introducing vocabulary, grammar and conversational elements of the language.

We aim for children to have access to at least 1 x30 minute session of high-quality language input per week to enable them to acquire skills and knowledge, with learning taking place in small, sequential chunks with opportunities for practice and revisiting learning. Due to the mixed-age organisation of classes at school, we work on a two-year rolling plan for topics.

Using 5 minute French lessons and using French in the everyday classroom for the register/birthdays/counting/classroom instructions throughout the week to supplement and practise learning will also be encouraged. KS1 and EYFS will be introduced to MFL through these methods.

We inspire to promote sticky learning through stimulating activities, linked with real life where possible, such as delivering access to resources delivered by native speakers to promote accurate pronunciation and intonation. Participation in block sessions dedicated to language and cultural activities (e.g. European Language Day, festivals, immersive learning, North East Festival of Languages) and Cross curricular links where possible (e.g. traditional story tales in target language, numbers in French to link to maths etc.) aims to inspire curiosity in our learners.

Through regular assessment for learning, we aim to promote an ethos of support, valuing every effort and celebrating successes to help children progress their learning. The thorough teaching of correct grammatical structures helps children benefit from the highest standards of subject knowledge and education required for learning. Children also engage in end of topic summative assessments to assess their knowledge, understanding and progress.

Impact

Through careful planning and delivery, children will develop a love of languages and a willingness to experiment and learn new languages, developing confidence to speak, as questions and communicate with others in the target language.

They will understand and respond to spoken and written languages and develop authenticity through correct pronunciation and intonation.

They will acquire knowledge about the countries of their target language to develop global citizenship and encourage them to become active, responsible and caring members of the wider community.

This will be monitored by the MFL lead through discussions with staff and book scrutinies to ensure all are accessing the learning appropriately and fully. Action planning will be embedded to ensure this is taking place.