



LONDON FIELDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL



London Fields Modern Foreign Languages Policy

Why do we teach modern foreign languages (MFL)?

From September 2014 it has been compulsory for every child in Year 3 upwards to learn a foreign language as part of their primary education.

Hackney as a borough has made a commitment to offering Spanish as the primary foreign language in both primary and secondary schools. The rationale behind this is to ensure that children will have a level of fluency and confidence in Spanish due to consistent teaching and exposure to the language since the age of 7 or 8. This will better prepare children for the new, more rigorous Spanish GCSE.

At London Fields we feel that the study of a foreign prepares pupils to participate in a rapidly changing world in which work and other activities are increasingly carried out in languages other than English. Pupils use languages to communicate information responsibly and creatively. They learn how to use languages to enable access to ideas and experiences from a wide range of people, communities and cultures. In addition, understanding a modern foreign language increases a child's understanding of their own language. The process of learning a foreign language reinforces fluency and understanding of grammar, syntax, sentence structure and verbal precision. A similar argument is outlined in the government's purpose of study for foreign languages:

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. 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.

DFE Statutory Guidance, 2015

What are our Aims for foreign language education?

At London Fields we strive for all children to be able to:

- develop an enthusiasm for learning languages and to become aware of the benefits of understanding and speaking different languages
- communicate in other languages by speaking and listening, reading and writing
- develop respect and understanding of other cultures

Curriculum Provision

At London Fields we have honoured the Hackney commitment to Spanish and have dedicated one hour each week for Spanish lessons in Key Stage 2, as well as short daily Spanish sessions in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

In Key Stage 1 Spanish is taught daily in a very active 15 minute lesson. This lesson usually comprises songs and games which teach the children new vocabulary and give them the opportunity to speak in Spanish as often as possible. Spanish is also 'drip fed' throughout the day, for example by taking the register in Spanish, counting in Spanish as a maths warm up and greeting each other in the corridor. In Key Stage 1 the emphasis is mainly on learning some core vocabulary, simple conversational phrases, and for creating a curiosity about different languages and cultures.

In Key Stage 2 language learning is no less active and fun, but there is greater depth and detail about the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Spanish is taught twice a week, and each lesson is half an hour long. These lessons comprise singing and games as in Key Stage 1, but also a higher rate of new vocabulary and phrases, as well as the introduction of familiar Spanish words and phrases to read and write. Spanish will be linked to other lessons such as Geography, ICT, Music, Art and History, to provide a richer, different perspective.

We are developing our extra-curricular activities on offer run by staff and external specialists. Our after school French club has been very popular and successful and is run by a native French speaker. We are in the process of extending this provision to offer a Spanish afterschool club by a native Spanish speaker to reinforce and extend learning.

As an equal opportunities and inclusive school we ensure that Spanish is access by all children. Please refer to the school's SEN and inclusion policy for more details.

Record keeping and assessment

Due to the active nature of Spanish lessons there aren't a lot of opportunities for recording. However, at our school Key Stage 2 teachers use photographs to record one lesson a half term. This and any written work the children produce goes into each child's individual Spanish book.

Spanish is assessed once a term by class teachers using specially designed assessments. Children are assessed as below, at or secure at age expected against the criteria written by Hackney Learning Trust Spanish consultants.

Resources

A central store is kept and maintained by the Modern Foreign Language Coordinator, which accessible to all staff for support with planning and teaching.

March 2016

To be reviewed June 2017