



## Ashmole Primary School

### Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy

“Learning a language enriches the curriculum. It provides excitement, enjoyment and challenge for children and teachers, helping to create enthusiastic learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning throughout life. The natural links between languages and other areas of the curriculum can enhance the overall teaching and learning experience. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained can make a major contribution to the development of children’s oracy and literacy and to their understanding of their own culture/s and those of others.” The Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages (DfES 2005). Part Two, page 4.

*“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.”*

Languages programme of study: key stage 2, National Curriculum in England 2014 (DfE)

#### Introduction

At Ashmole Primary School we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them to develop communication skills including key skills of speaking and listening and extends their knowledge of how language works. Learning another language gives children a new perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others.

At Ashmole Primary School we offer Spanish lessons to all our children from Reception to Year 6 and an optional French Club for our pupils after school. This is led by fully trained Ashmole Academy staff who are lead specialists in their subject.

#### Aims and objectives of Primary Languages education at Ashmole Primary School

Our aim is to develop the confidence and competence of each child in the foreign language they are learning. Our goal is for them to be passionate, curious and confident about their own foreign language learning abilities when they finish the primary school phase of their education.

We will help them develop and demonstrate substantial progress in the 5 key language skills necessary for learning Spanish.

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar

We aim to ensure that pupils of all abilities develop solid foundations in these key language learning skills - properly preparing them for the next stage of their language learning journey. These skills will develop children's ability to understand what they hear and read and enable them to express themselves in speech and writing. We will extend their knowledge of how language works and explore the similarities and differences between the foreign language they are learning and English. We will also help strengthen their sense of identity through learning about culture in other countries and comparing it with their own.

## **Teaching and Learning Overview**

Our whole school approach to language teaching and learning is in line with the recommendations of the National Curriculum and the requirements outlined in the Department for Education Languages Programme of Study for Key Stage 2.

The National Curriculum for languages aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- Speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- Can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- Discover and develop an appreciation of a range of authentic writing in the language studied.

By the end of key stage 2, pupils should be able to:

1. Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding.
2. Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words.
3. Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help.
4. Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures.
5. Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases.
6. Present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences.
7. Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing.
8. Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language.
9. Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary.

10. Write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly.
11. Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing.
12. Understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, including (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms and the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English.

Although Spanish is not a statutory requirement in KS1 our specialist Spanish teachers also deliver lessons from Reception up to Year 2 weekly. We believe this is a unique opportunity to build Spanish language skills through, song, games and interactive activities.

Displays of the topics being taught in Spanish will be displayed in individual classrooms and around the school.

### **Organisation & Delivery**

Spanish is taught in across the school from reception to year 6 by a native speaker and language specialist from Ashmole Academy on a weekly basis.

Lessons have been planned by the specialist language teacher and the MFL lead using the Language Angels scheme of work and have been shared with the teachers on the school drive. Therefore, Spanish lessons can also be revisited in short sessions throughout the week to consolidate knowledge and ensure new language is retained. The Language Angels scheme is a fully online resource enabling all teachers in all classes to have instant and continuous access to all the resources they need to teach whichever lesson they choose. The lessons are designed to motivate, captivate and interest children from the first moment. They have clear, achievable objectives and incorporate different learning styles. SEN children have access to the curriculum through variation of task, grouping or support from an adult. Each class has a timetabled lesson of 20 minutes in KS1 and 30 minutes in KS2

Spanish lessons include:

- PowerPoints and interactive whiteboard materials
- Interactive games (which pupils can access from home to consolidate their learning)
- Songs & raps
- Differentiated desk-based consolidation activities
- Worksheets (at three different levels of challenge) are provided throughout each teaching unit and can be used in class or can be sent home to be completed as a homework exercise

Each lesson will focus on a combination of the 5 key language learning skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar).

## **Assessment of Pupil Learning & Progression**

Where appropriate, worksheets and evidence of the children's written work will be kept in their books which can be passed through the years and become a portfolio of their learning. Two forms of assessment are available at the end of every Language Angels unit:

1. Peer and self-assessment 'I can do...' grids. A quick and easy way for all pupils in the class to record which units they have completed and the progress they are making.
2. More detailed skills-based assessments using bespoke skills assessment worksheets. This form of assessment enables us to determine the learning and progression of all pupils in the key language learning skills as well as monitoring their progress against the 12 attainment targets stipulated in the DfE Languages Programme of Study for Key Stage 2.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

The Subject Leader will encourage class assemblies and presentations in Spanish. They will also encourage cross-curricular topics be taught in Spanish to knit together various areas of the curriculum as well as liaising with Ashmole Academy to promote opportunities for Spanish events such as the summer fair and the organisation of a whole school Spanish day.

The Subject Leader monitors the effectiveness of the language teaching provided throughout the school via:

- Observing children speaking and listening in another language.
- Images and videos of children completing speaking and listening activities.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Annual reporting of standards across the curriculum to parents.
- Learning walks.
- Scrutiny of evidence in books
- Analysis of assessments

**January 2024**

**To be reviewed in January 2025**