

Modern Foreign Language – Spanish at Ashmole Primary School



'One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages opens every door way.'

At Ashmole Primary School, we teach the modern foreign language (MFL) of Spanish to Years Reception-Year 6 as part of the school curriculum. We believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. We believe it is an excellent opportunity for children, many of whom are bilingual, to develop pride in their linguistic abilities. The earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. We believe that it is essential to introduce a new language to children when they are in primary school as they tend to be more confident 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 and mathematical skills later in life. We aim for the children to continue their development of Spanish in Year 7 at Ashmole Academy.

Intent

Ashmole Primary School intends to use the Language Angels scheme of work and resources to ensure we offer a relevant, broad, vibrant and ambitious foreign languages curriculum that will inspire and excite our pupils using a wide variety of topics and themes. All pupils will be expected to achieve their full potential by encouraging high expectations and excellent standards in their foreign language learning - the ultimate aim being that pupils will feel willing and able to continue studying languages beyond key stage 2.

The intent is that all content will be continuously updated and reviewed annually, creating a dynamic programme of study that will be clearly outlined in both long-term and short-term planning. This will ensure that the foreign language knowledge of our pupils progresses within each academic year and is extended year upon year throughout the primary phase and, in so doing, will always be relevant and in line with meeting or exceeding national DfE requirements.

The four key language learning skills; **listening, speaking, reading** and **writing** will be taught and all necessary **grammar** will be covered in an age-appropriate way across the primary phase. This will enable pupils to use and apply their learning in a variety of contexts, laying down solid foundations for future language learning and also helping the children improve overall attainment in other subject areas. In addition, the children will be taught how to look up and research language they are unsure of and they will have a bank of reference materials to help them with their spoken and written tasks going forward. This bank of reference materials will develop into a reference library to help pupils recall and build on previous knowledge throughout their primary school language learning journey.

The intent is that all pupils will develop a genuine interest and positive curiosity about foreign languages, finding them enjoyable and stimulating. Learning a second language will also offer pupils the opportunity to explore relationships between language and identity, develop a deeper understanding of other cultures and the world around them with a better awareness

of self, others and cultural differences. The intention is that they will be working towards becoming life-long language learners.

Implementation

All classes will have access to a very high-quality foreign languages curriculum using the Language Angels scheme of work and resources. This will progressively develop pupil skills in foreign languages through regularly taught and well-planned weekly lessons from reception to Year 6 which will be taught by a specialist native Spanish teacher from Ashmole Academy.

Children will progressively acquire, use and apply a growing bank of vocabulary, language skills and grammatical knowledge organised around age-appropriate topics and themes - building blocks of language into more complex, fluent and authentic language.

The planning of different levels of challenge (as demonstrated in the various Language Angels Teaching Type categories) and which units to teach at each stage of the academic year will be addressed dynamically and will be reviewed in detail annually as units are updated and added to the scheme. Lessons offering appropriate levels of challenge and stretch will be taught at all times to ensure pupils learn effectively, continuously building their knowledge of and enthusiasm for the language(s) they are learning

Language Angels are categorised by '**Teaching Type**' to make it easier for teachers to choose units that will offer the appropriate level of challenge and stretch for the classes they are teaching.

Early Language units are entry level units and are most appropriate for KS1 and Year 3 pupils or pupils with little or no previous foreign language learning. **Intermediate** units increase the level of challenge by increasing the amount and complexity (including foreign language grammar concepts) of the foreign language presented to pupils. Intermediate units are suitable for Year 4-5 pupils or pupils with embedded basic knowledge of the foreign language. **Progressive** and **Creative Curriculum** units are the most challenging units and are suitable for Year 6 pupils or pupils with a good understanding of the basics of the language they are learning. Grouping units into these **Teaching Type** categories ensures that the language taught is appropriate to the level of the class and introduced when the children are ready. Children will be taught how to listen and read longer pieces of text gradually in the foreign language and they will have ample opportunities to speak, listen to, read and write the language being taught with and without scaffolds, frames and varying levels of support.

Units, where possible and appropriate, are linked to class topics and cross curricular themes. Children will build on previous knowledge gradually as their foreign language lessons continue to recycle, revise and consolidate previously learnt language whilst building

on all four language skills: **listening, speaking, reading** and **writing**. Grammar rules and patterns will be taught by level of challenge:

- We start with **nouns** and **articles** and **1st person singular of high frequency verbs** in **Early Learning** units.
- We move on to the use of the **possessive**, the **concept of adjectives**, use of the **negative form, conjunctions/connectives** and introduce the **concept of whole regular verb conjugation** in **Intermediate** units.
- We end with **opinions** and introduce the **concept of whole high frequency irregular verb conjugation** in **Progressive** units.

Knowledge and awareness of required and appropriate grammar concepts will be taught throughout all units at all levels of challenge. Grammar is integrated and taught discreetly throughout all appropriate units. Teachers can also use the specific **Grammar Explained** units to ensure pupils are exposed to all of the appropriate grammar so they are able to create their own accurate and personalised responses to complex authentic foreign language questions by the end of the primary phase.

The school has a curriculum overview as well as medium term plans in place which will serve as an overall 'teaching map' outlining for all teachers within the school what each class in each year group will be taught and when it will be taught. Each class in each year group will have an overview of units to be taught during the academic year to ensure substantial progress and learning is achieved. Each teaching unit is divided into 6 fully planned lessons.

- Each unit and lesson will have clearly defined objectives and aims.
- Each lesson will incorporate interactive whiteboard materials to include ample **speaking** and **listening** tasks within a lesson.
- Lessons will incorporate **challenge sections** and desk-based activities that will be offered will three levels of stretch and differentiation.
- **Reading** and **writing** activities will be offered in all units. Some extended reading and writing activities are provided so that native speakers can also be catered for.
- Every unit will include a **grammar concept** which will increase in complexity as pupils move from **Early Language** units, through **Intermediate** units and into **Progressive** units.
- Extending writing activities are provided to ensure that pupils are recalling previously learnt language and, by reusing it, will be able to recall it and use it with greater ease and accuracy. These tasks will help to link units together and show that pupils are retaining and recalling the language taught with increased fluency and ease.

Units are progressive within themselves as subsequent lessons within a unit build on the language and knowledge taught in previous lessons. As pupils progress through the lessons in a unit they will build their knowledge and develop the complexity of the language they use. We think of the progression within the 6 lessons in a unit as '**language Lego**'. We provide blocks of language knowledge and, over the course of a 6-week unit, encourage pupils to build more complex and sophisticated language structures with their blocks of language knowledge.

Pupil learning and progression will be assessed at regular intervals in line with school policy. The children's language skills and confidence levels will be assessed at the end of each unit through the use of self-assessment 'I can do' grids and also more formal skills based assessment worksheets for children in Key Stage 2.

Impact

As well as each subsequent lesson within a unit being progressive, the teaching type organisation of Language Angels units also directs, drives and guarantees progressive learning and challenge. Units increase in level of challenge, stretch and linguistic and grammatical complexity as pupils move from Early Learning units through Intermediate units and into the most challenging Progressive units. Units in each subsequent level of the teaching type categories require more knowledge and application of skills than the previous teaching type. Activities contain progressively more text (both in English and the foreign language being studied) and lessons will have more content as the children become more confident and ambitious with the foreign language they are learning.

Early Learning units will start at basic noun and article level and will teach pupils how to formulate short phrases. By the time pupils reach Progressive units they will be exposed to much longer text and will be encouraged to formulate their own, more personalised responses based on a much wider bank of vocabulary, linguistic structures and grammatical knowledge. They will be able to create longer pieces of spoken and written language and are encouraged to use a variety of conjunctions, adverbs, adjectives, opinions and justifications.

Pupils will continuously build on their previous knowledge as they progress in their foreign language learning journey through the primary phase. Previous language will be recycled, revised, recalled and consolidated whenever possible and appropriate.

Teachers will have a clear overview of what the children are working towards and if they are meeting these criteria. They will be given the curriculum overview; medium term plans as well as individual **lesson plans** laying out the learning aims and intentions of each individual lesson within a unit. These planning documents ensure that teachers know what is being taught by the specialist teacher across whole units and across each scholastic term. They

will be given the resources to practise and revisit the language being taught in order to reinforce it during the week.

Pupils will be aware of their own learning goals and progression as each unit offers a pupil friendly overview so that all pupils can review their own learning at the start and at the end of each unit. They will know and will be able to articulate if they have or have not met their learning objectives and can keep their unit learning intention sheets and unit core vocabulary sheets as a record of what they have learnt from unit to unit and from year to year.

The opportunity to assess pupil learning and progression in the key language skills (speaking, listening, reading and writing) and against the 12 DfE Languages Programme of Study for Key Stage 2 attainment targets is provided at the end of each 6-week teaching unit for children in Key Stage 2. Pupils will also be offered self-assessment grids to ensure they are also aware of their own progress which they can keep as a record of their progress. Teacher will be encouraged to participate and learn the language alongside the children so that they will be able to support the specialist teacher is assessing the children's progress. This evidence will be collated at the end of each topic and put into an assessment file. The MFL lead will be able to gain a good overview of the children's progress through:

- Lesson observations
- Scrutiny of the assessment files and children's work (KS2)
- Photos of children's work and videos (KS1)
- Learning walks
- Interviews with children (pupil's voice)

Children are expected to make good or better than good progress in their foreign language learning and their individual progress is tracked and reported to pupils and parents / carers in line with school recommendations.