



## **Foreign Language Policy**

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| <b>Policy Scope:</b>     | <b>Thames View Primary School</b> |
| <b>Responsibility:</b>   | <b>Local Academy Board</b>        |
| <b>Date Adopted:</b>     | <b>September 2020</b>             |
| <b>Review Frequency:</b> | <b>Every Two Years</b>            |
| <b>Review date:</b>      | <b>September 2022</b>             |

## **Rationale**

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, eventually 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 many children really enjoy learning to speak another language and that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. Also, an advantage of introducing a new language at primary school is that children tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. Furthermore, it is widely accepted that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life. Language 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 area as well as giving them a new perspective on their own language.

## **Aims and Objectives**

- To foster an interest in, and to stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about other languages.
- To introduce children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun.
- To encourage children to be aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another.
- To help the children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries.
- To develop their speaking and listening skills.
- To lay the foundations for future study.
- To raise staff awareness of and competence in Spanish.

## **Impact**

Learning a foreign language helps children to develop an understanding of their own culture and that of others. Learning that people have different tastes, opinions and views of the world teaches them principles of tolerance and respect of each other's values.

The skills and knowledge gained through learning a new language make a major contribution to the development of children's oracy and literacy. Thus, by learning about the grammatical structure and patterns of another language, children can make connections and comparisons which will deepen their understanding both in the target language and in English.

Learning a foreign language helps children to develop their confidence with their linguistic skills. Children learning a foreign language in primary school are more likely to also learn a foreign language during their secondary education.

## **The Foreign Language Curriculum**

Spanish is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school. The scheme that we follow is from Light Bulb Languages. See Link Below

<https://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-pr-sp.htm>

We teach the children to develop an understanding and to gain confidence in:

- Asking and answering questions both verbally and, eventually, in writing;
- Using correct pronunciation and intonation;
- Memorising words;
- Interpreting meaning;
- Understanding basic grammar;
- Working in pairs and groups to communicate in the other language;
- Making linguistic links with other topics across the curriculum;
- Looking at life in another culture.

## **Implementation and Organisation**

Light Bulb Languages has a Scheme of Work for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 which covers a range of different topics, each successive Year Group's work building on the knowledge and competencies of the previous Year. However, as this year is our first year adopting Spanish as our chosen language, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 will all be starting with the Y3 activities. (It is hoped that some of the older children may move more speedily through the units).

## **Some interesting facts about learning Spanish**

- According to most estimates, Spanish is the mother tongue of more than 400 million people around the globe, which equates to approximately six percent of the world's population.
- A recent report published by the British Council ranked Spanish as the most important second language for British citizens to learn, placing it ahead of French, Arabic and Mandarin.
- In today's global marketplace, knowledge of a second language can be an extremely valuable asset employers and employees alike.
- Your travel experiences will be enhanced. The list of countries in which Spanish is the predominant language includes popular destinations like Spain, Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

- Multiple studies show that acquiring a second language can help to delay the onset of Alzheimer's and postpone dementia symptoms.
- Spanish is fairly straightforward for an English speaker to pick up. The language does not require students to learn a completely new alphabet. Spanish words are also spelled phonetically, which means less time spent learning complicated and confusing spelling rules and a better chance of getting the pronunciation right.
- Studies have demonstrated that learning a second language can improve a student's grasp of their mother tongue, as acquiring a second language requires a person to think carefully about linguistic theory, or 'the rules'.