

St George's C. E. Primary School



Languages Policy

Date Approved: September 2020

Approved by: Governors

Review Date: January 2025

Languages Policy



Vision Statement:

Jesus said: 'Love each other as I have loved you'. John 15:12

Our school motto, 'EVERYONE matters, EVERYONE achieves' is at the heart of everything we do and believe.

At St George's Primary School, we aim to prepare the children in our care to become well-rounded members of society on their journey through school life and beyond. We strongly believe that children learn best and can achieve their potential when they are happy and content. We endeavour to provide a safe learning environment with a warm, welcoming atmosphere which creates a sense of belonging amongst the children, the staff, the families and the community. We embrace their individuality and diversity, always encouraging respect and acceptance of each other as equal human beings and celebrating our differences.

We have high expectations of the children and we work hard to support them to become the best that they can be. For our children to flourish, socially and academically, we aim to provide an outstanding education that is both challenging and inclusive. All children are encouraged to embrace the many opportunities and the support school provides, so that they become curious learners who are motivated and resilient with a 'Can do' attitude. Our aim is to provide the children of St George's with countless positive experiences, along with happy lifelong memories, from their time with us. We also have high expectations of attendance. We encourage families to be at school every day and to arrive on time in order to not miss any learning.

Through our supportive and inclusive Christian ethos, we are proud to foster our school values of kindness, respect, friendship, honesty, happiness, responsibility, perseverance and forgiveness, embedding these within everyday life at school. We believe that the emotional health and wellbeing of the whole school community is fundamental to the ongoing success of our school.

We aspire to make our school a place of excellence where we educate, nurture and value everyone; that ALL children will enjoy learning and achieve their potential in the 'St George's Way.'

'Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.'
Mother Teresa.

“Purpose of study

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.”

-The National Curriculum in England: Key stages 1 and 2 Framework Document.
September 2013

Vision:

At St. George’s Primary School, we believe that the learning of a language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them to develop communication skills, including key skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. The children’s knowledge of how language works will be developed and extended. Lessons will enable pupils to make substantial progress in one language. The linguistic skills gained will assist and lay foundations for further language learning. It will provide pupils with the confidence and independence to explore and be able to attempt manipulation of the structure of language. Learning another language gives children a new and broader perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others.

School Aims:

- Develop an enthusiastic and positive attitude to languages and language learning.
- Develop language skills
- Raise awareness of aspects of their own language and make comparisons with the foreign language, thereby enriching their understanding of both.
- Become aware that language has structure and that this structure differs from one language to another.
- Become increasingly familiar with the sounds and written form of a modern foreign language.
- Gain enjoyment, pride and a sense of achievement.
- Use their knowledge with growing confidence and competence to understand what they hear and read, and to express themselves in speech and in writing.
- Increase cultural understanding about different countries and their people.
- Explore and apply strategies to improve their learning.
- Form a sound basis for further language learning at key stage 3 and beyond.

Organisation:

Although children in EYFS and KS1 are not required to learn a language, at St George's we feel that children should be immersed in a different language throughout their time in school. We have a practical approach to children learning some simple French greetings, colours and numbers before their formal lessons commence in KS2. The children will see visual aids and learn French songs to help them with their understanding of the culture and language.

Children in KS2 learn French.

In KS2 children are taught French for up to one hour per week and school aims to follow up activities when appropriate outside of the language lesson.

Teaching and Learning:

To promote an active learning of languages a range of teaching methods are implemented to ensure that the children are developing their linguistic skills through listening, speaking, reading and writing in order to be secondary ready. Activities can consist of actions, rhymes, stories, song, drama, grammar focus, video clips, air writing, sentence structure, dictionary work, book making and many more creative ways to extend, embed and combine language skills. We make use of the Primary Languages Network scheme of work. It is a live scheme which is continually updated and revised in order to meet with current curriculum standards. Alongside the planning provided, the network also enriches this through: accompanying power points; pod casts (spoken by native speakers); links to authentic literature; songs; games; cultural points of reference and links to appropriate websites.

The National Curriculum:

For every pupil in key stage 2, Modern Foreign Languages is a statutory foundation subject. The attainment targets outlined in the Programme of Study for Languages relate to: listening and speaking skills; reading and writing skills and knowledge about grammar.

Speaking and Listening

- Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding.
- Explore the patterns and sound of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of the words.
- Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; respond to those of others; seek clarification and help.
- Speak in sentences using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures.
- Present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences.

- Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language.

Reading and Writing

- Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases.
- Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing.
- Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words introduced into familiar written material, including using a dictionary.
- Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing.
- Write words from memory and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly.

Grammar

- Understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied.

Assessment:

Assessment is based on classroom observations of speaking and listening activities, as well as written evidence in the children's French books. These regular, informal assessments are used to inform planning so that it takes account of the children's understanding, their way of thinking and their language skills development to ensure that progress of the children is maximised. At the beginning of the lesson, a review of learning takes place to check learning that has taken place is embedded. Children self-assess their work at the end of the lesson. The cloud assessment system allows staff to monitor children's attainment, based on pupils' own judgements.

Inclusion:

At St. George's, we teach French to all children in key stage 2. A modern foreign language forms part of our school's commitment to providing a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all children to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing:

At St George's, the emotional health and wellbeing of our children and staff is of utmost importance to us and we endeavour to support each other in this. Our school motto 'Everyone Matters, Everyone Achieves' is at the heart of all we do. We constantly aim to promote a positive approach to learning in French and support the children who may find aspects of this subject challenging.

Role of the Subject Leader(s)

The coordinator is responsible for:

- Providing support and training to relevant members of staff.
- Monitor progress across key stage and identify areas for improvement
- Monitor children's books and planning to ensure high standards are maintained
- Monitor the teaching and provide feedback
- Monitor full coverage of the National Curriculum programmes of study across key stage 2
- Writing and reviewing the Languages policy
- Coordinating the use of resources and ensuring these are up to date
- Attending relevant courses and disseminating information as necessary