

MFL at Alexandra Primary School – Our Intentions:

Language learning enables pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language, and to understand and respond to its speakers. It is clear that language learning is not only a matter of developing competence in another language, but it is also about the broader curriculum; about children exploring the relationship between language and identity, about developing an international outlook and an enhanced understanding of the world and their place within it. As the opening statement of the new Programme of Study puts it: “Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures.”

MFL Skills that we develop at APS include:

Oracy - (Listening, speaking and spoken interaction) is a very important part of language learning. In the early stages of learning Spanish, children will spend much of their time listening, speaking and interacting orally. They will reproduce sounds and create phrases and sentences. Children will engage in simple conversations to obtain and provide information and exchange opinions.

Literacy – The literacy skills of reading and writing are linked closely to Oracy. Children will have opportunities to apply their skills and understanding to enjoy reading and learning about Spanish culture. Through reading they will be able to write simple sentences and short texts for different purposes and audiences in a Spanish. Children use the skills of reading and writing to develop a basic knowledge of the writing system, the spelling and the structure of the language.

Inter-cultural understanding - Language competence and inter-cultural understanding are an essential part of being a citizen. They learn to look at things from another perspective, giving them insight into the people, culture and traditions of other cultures.

Aspire: At APS we aim to develop the confidence and competence of each child in Spanish as we recognise the value of language learning. Our community thrives on celebrating different cultures and experiences. We aspire for our children to be passionate, curious and confident about their own foreign language learning abilities. We want all children to understand how language works and explore the similarities and differences between Spanish and English.

Perform: Spanish teaching and learning at APS is not only about developing competence in another language, but is also about the broader curriculum; about children exploring the relationship between language and identity, about developing an international outlook and an enhanced understanding of the world and their place within it. Activities children are engaged in show that children enjoy demonstrating their abilities in Spanish through assemblies, lessons in class and interacting with their peers and adults in Spanish.

Succeed: Children succeed in Spanish at APS because we develop a love of all languages and celebrate our different cultures. Success can be measured in how competently they can converse in Spanish. Success will be appreciating how learning different languages provide children with a life skill they can use in the future when visiting Spain. The application of learning a new language to other areas of the curriculum such as broadening their grammar knowledge will demonstrate success in Spanish.

In order for this to happen, we use a number of strategies which include:

- Quality-first teaching and modelling of skills.
- Oracy and writing opportunities.
- Cross-curriculum links.
- A progressive curriculum that focuses on both knowledge and skills.
- Inter-cultural knowledge and understanding built into the planning.
- Providing a wide range of high- quality resources and materials for the children to work with.
- Links with Spanish primary schools.
- Extra-curricular opportunities.
- All children learning the language in KS2, with KS1 children provided with an opportunity to experience the language in preparation for KS2 through fun and interactive extra-curricular activities.

In order for our children to aspire, perform and succeed in MFL, we provide opportunities for children to express their ideas and thoughts in Spanish and to understand and respond, both in speech and in writing. Also, through MFL, children are given opportunities to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and celebrate diversity. The application of skills when learning a new language is of huge benefit to children in order to continue to develop their home language and / or English.