

MFL Curriculum Statement

Mission Statement

Our school community is rooted in the Gospel and the vision of St. Catherine of Siena. This inspires each of us *'To be who God wants us to be and so set the world on fire.'*

- We are called to love one another as we seek to be the best in all that we learn and do.
- We celebrate and nurture the gifts, talents and skills of everyone.
- We commit ourselves to grow together in faith, love and service.

More specifically, this means we aim to:



Intent

The intention at St Catherine’s is to teach Spanish to all pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 and to encourage a love of language and of language learning. All pupils have a discrete Spanish lesson each week taught by Mrs Chidgey, in KS1, Mrs Taylor, a language specialist, in KS2. This ensures progression through Key Stages and accuracy in the Spanish taught.

Two main Schemes of Work are followed with supplementary materials added; Little Languages in KS1 which introduces the children to Spanish through games, songs and reinforcement of British traditions, tying in with other customs around the world and particularly in Spain. In KS2, Early Start and the Catherine Cheater Schemes of Work are used.

St Catherine’s has a long-standing partnership with two schools in Nigrán, Galicia, NW Spain and letters and videos are exchanged regularly between the classes in Upper KS2, as well as

an annual exchange visit open to all pupils in Year 5. This broadens the children's horizons and allows the children to experience another culture at first hand.

Year 5 host an annual Spanish Café to which the Year 4 classes are invited and encouraged to order in Spanish, while the older pupils wait on in Spanish. Parents, carers and the wider community are also invited.

We want to help prepare our pupils for high school and the next stage of their learning by providing a good foundation in the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing Spanish.

Implementation

We strive to embed the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing necessary to enable children to use and apply their Spanish learning in a variety of contexts and lay the foundations for future language learning.

Children are encouraged and supported to develop their speaking and listening skills through conversational work, singing activities and games. As confidence and skill grows, children record their work through pictures, captions and sentences. They perform short plays and role plays for their classmates and other productions to the whole school.

The emphasis is on learning a language through fun and encouraging a love of language and fluency in speaking. Children thus gain confidence in speaking and use their language easily and without inhibitions.

Letters and cards to Spain form a real focus on writing in Spanish and place the written form in a real-life situation that the children can relate to. Familiar stories are read in Spanish and enacted to allow the children's fluency with the written word to develop.

Impact

The impact of our MFL curriculum is that children are encouraged to understand the relevance of what they are learning in languages and how it relates to everyday life and travel. Through our exchange programme with CPI Arquitecto Palacios and CEIP Mallón in Nigrán, the children communicate through video, letters and cards with native Spanish speakers of their own age and participate in an exchange programme. This puts Spanish and the learning of a foreign language very firmly in a real-life situation and emphasises the need in these days of being to communicate with other peoples from around the world. The children learn about the wider issues of tolerance and understanding of different cultures, whilst appreciating that people have the same emotions, likes and dislikes as other nationalities. Each child in Years 5 and 6 have a named penfriend in one of the Spanish schools. The exchange has become part of the whole St Catherine's community with all the children in the school being involved in some way when the Spanish children visit and many of our families have kept in touch with the penfriend's families, with some friendships going back twelve years.

As a school, we foster enjoyment of languages through varied lessons including games, songs, roleplays and interactive online activities.

All children from Year 1 through to Year 6 have discrete Spanish lessons, building on progression and acquisition of vocabulary and grammar relevant to their age and ability.

Members of our wider school community are invited to our Spanish café, are served by Year 5 in Spanish, and entertained by all classes singing Spanish songs. Foreign language songs are often sung in Whole School Singing Practice.