

Rowdown Primary School

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy



Rationale

First and foremost, studying a modern foreign language is fun. It gives children the opportunity to communicate effectively (whether now or in the future) in a language other than their first or home language. It allows children to develop a number of skills, including listening and oracy skills which cross over into all areas of the school curriculum. It inspires children to take an interest in different cultures, travel, foods, arts and music and equips them for a global environment both socially and in the commercial world.

Studying a modern foreign language enriches the curriculum, providing excitement, enjoyment and challenge, and stimulating children's creativity. It helps to create enthusiastic language learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning throughout life. It also allows children the opportunity to find out about countries other than their own, and the life of people/children in those countries.

Aims

Our aims of teaching MFL are for children to:

- develop speaking and listening skills in another language;
- stimulate an interest in learning languages other than the home language or English;
- become aware that language has a structure, and that this structure differs from one language to another;
- embrace experiences and ideas from other cultures;
- gain enjoyment, pride and a sense of achievement from their ability to communicate;
- explore the cultural identities of people from other countries where a modern foreign language is spoken.

Teaching and Learning in MFL

The teaching and learning of MFL in our school will be both stimulating and motivating. Pupils enjoy developing their skills and knowledge, through the use of a variety of teaching strategies and activities. These will include: playing games (including role play) and learning songs; learning vocabulary, grammar and spelling patterns; asking and answering questions in the chosen language; using bilingual texts and dictionaries (as appropriate to age); and to write in the chosen language.

The scheme of work for MFL ensures the relevant aspects of the National Curriculum are covered. It will link to the other areas of the curriculum where it makes sense to do so.

Each year group will teach a number of specified objectives (listed in the scheme of work) which build on the knowledge of previous years, and which are designed to increase pupils' understanding of the language taught.

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Inclusion

As teachers we must be aware of, and respond to, pupils' diverse learning needs, including those with English as an additional language, those with learning difficulties, and the Able, Gifted and Talented pupils. Teachers will identify Gifted and Talented and SEN/EAL pupils. Teachers need to make themselves aware of any children in their class whose home language is a MFL, and will need to adapt their teaching accordingly.

All children will have access to MFL, therefore work and activities will be differentiated accordingly to ensure that children of all abilities participate to their full potential.

Any resources used should be sensitive towards people of different cultural, national or religious backgrounds, or people with disabilities. Children should be taught to appreciate the commonalities and differences in people and cultures around the world where the language being studied is spoken. For further information see the Inclusion Policy.

Assessment of Progress in MFL

Teachers will make formative assessment of children's progress through the verbal and written work of each child. Lessons will be adjusted accordingly to reflect this assessment. An annual report to parents will detail progress and achievements in MFL. Teachers will track attainment on a shared log to ensure the consistency of teaching between year groups.

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