

**“Foreign languages introduce children to a new world, but also new sounds, sensations, discoveries and stimulating acquisitions”**

(Driscoll and Frost,1999)

### **Duncombe Primary School Primary Modern Languages Policy 2008**

Over the last few years a range of MFL has been taught at Duncombe School. This includes Spanish, French, Cantonese and Japanese.

There are two main languages taught at Duncombe: Spanish and French.

Spanish is currently taught in year 3 and 4.

French is taught in year 5 and 6.

Teaching a language at KS1 is not compulsory, but teachers are encouraged to teach a foreign language to their class. For example, year 2 will be taught French by enthusiastic teachers, and reception will learn Spanish throughout the year.

Home languages are supported through extensive activities.

These include:

- community language specialist currently in Somali, Turkish, Bengali and Albanian
- cultural classes to support all the above groups
- the opportunity to take GCSEs in Bengali, Spanish and Turkish for both parents and children at Duncombe.

#### **Aims**

- Raise awareness that languages other than English exist
- Develop positive attitudes to other languages and cultures
- Introduce children to simple vocabulary and structures which can be used in a variety of contexts in the normal school day, e.g. date, classroom organisation, routines, songs thus making MFL use normal and developing confidence
- Raise awareness of aspects of mother tongue by encountering other languages
- Raise awareness of aspects of home culture by encountering other cultures and raising awareness of citizenship issues.
- Prepare pupils for specialist teaching in secondary school
- Enhance the abilities of our staff

## Teaching and Learning

- MFL are currently taught at Duncombe using specialist support model. Borough specialists lead and model teaching once a week and class teachers develop and coordinate the lesson the following week. During the course of the year there is a gradual progression to team teaching to develop teachers' independence and confidence which will enable them to proceed alone in the future.
- The MFL curriculum is to be taught in line with the KS2 MFL Framework
- Weekly language lessons should vary in their approach to develop the main three strands: oracy, literacy and cultural understanding.
- Much language learning can be done informally through using the language for real purposes e.g. taking the register, classroom commands, giving routine instructions, celebrating achievements and birthdays. With the addition of this informal teaching time, the recommended one hour per week for the KS2 MFL Framework is met.
- As much as possible, the foreign language is also to be taught in ordinary classroom situations, using regular routines, songs and games which children find enjoyable and motivating.
- Both in lessons and in informal use of the foreign language the emphasis is on repetition and on having fun!
- A language week will be organised during the year in parallel with EGA's language week to facilitate exchanges and develop links with secondary school

## Assessment

We are using the following methods of assessment:

- *Teacher assessment within normal class teaching.* This will enable the teacher to differentiate the style of questioning and conversation used for individual pupils.
- *Interactive CD-ROMs activities.* This will assess listening and reading skills.
- *French or Spanish folder,* (similar to the big writing folders) where children will keep evidences of their work. Children will keep the green folder from year 3 to year 6, and the written work will be assessed by teachers using the school marking policy.

## Resources

- Early start CD-ROMS and scheme of work used throughout Islington:
  - Year 3: Early Start Spanish 1 "Tu y yo"
  - Year 4: Early Start Spanish 2 "Mi ciudad y mi colegio"
  - Year 5: Early Start French 1 "Salut! Ca va?"
  - Year 6 : Early Start French 2 "Ou habites-tu?"
- Traditional songs and nursery rhymes
- Stories in the target language
- Language websites like babelzone or bbc languages
- MFL display which will reflect the wide range of MFL activities and teaching at Duncombe School

### **Additional Support for teachers**

- Throughout the year, teachers will be supported by a primary languages outreach teacher who will lead the language session every two weeks. Towards the summer term, they will have the opportunity to team-teach together in order to develop the teachers' confidence and independence.
- The language structures and vocabulary that teachers need to effectively deliver the formal and informal content of the MFL framework are limited in scope and can be learnt easily by any enthusiastic primary teacher, whatever the starting point in the language concerned.
- Teachers have the opportunity to attend a weekly language course funded by the council to improve their language skills. It is the responsibility of the MFL coordinator to encourage participation at these courses and to help us celebrate attendance.
- Duncombe Primary School, Islington council and the British council support teachers' language development by offering the opportunity for teachers to go abroad one or two weeks in order to develop their language skills and understanding of the foreign culture.
- If applicable, a language assistant will take groups of children every week for short period of time in order to consolidate what they learnt in class.
- Annual MFL staff meeting

### **Visits**

- Year 6 residential trip to France
- Year 5 day trip to Paris to meet with the French year 5 at Ecole Saint Pierre, our partner school in France. Children will take the Eurostar at King's Cross to arrive 2 hours 15 minutes later in the heart of Paris.
- Staff INSET abroad: Duncombe wishes to organise a day trip abroad in order to develop the teachers' cultural understanding and awareness. We would have to be very careful about how this can be organised in view of press sensitivity.
- Teachers can take part in the "two weeks primary project" as mentioned above.
- Headteacher's visit to France to take part in the Euroschool seminar in Paris

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Pauline Dumas