

Highfield Middle School

MFL

Intent, Implementation and Impact

2022

Intent

At Highfield Middle School, the MFL curriculum supports the whole-school ethos of helping pupils to gain an understanding of the world in which they live, and tolerance of people who act and think differently to themselves. Pupils study French in Key Stage 2 and 3 and Spanish is introduced in KS3 to promote further understanding of world languages and prepare pupils for further study.

“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”. (National Curriculum for MFL) Throughout their language lessons, pupils are encouraged to develop their communication skills through listening, reading, writing and speaking, and pupils draw comparisons between their native language and the language of study.

The department recognises the importance of both language study through vocabulary, grammar and phonics and intercultural understanding of the countries where the languages are spoken, and therefore, the curriculum is structured to promote both these elements of learning.

Implementation

MFL lessons at Highfield Middle School are taught by two specialist teachers with undergraduate degrees in Languages and Business. Schemes of work are designed to build on prior knowledge in terms of complexity of grammatical structure, while introducing breadth of vocabulary, and revisiting and recycling high frequency vocabulary. Multiple tenses are introduced in KS3 French to build the foundations of further learning so that pupils have plenty of opportunity to practise structures that will be useful in GCSE study.

“Languages teachers should know and build on the grammar taught in the key stage 2 national curriculum for English.” (Teaching Schools Council MFL Pedagogy Review) Grammar is taught both implicitly through example sentences, and explicitly through explanations, questioning and activities, and terminology used by pupils in Literacy lessons is used to compare languages during MFL lessons.

Pupils have two lessons of languages per week, French in Key Stage 2 and one lesson each of French and Spanish in Key Stage 3. Lessons are designed to engage pupils with topics and cultural understanding so that they are interested in learning about the wider world. Popular music currently includes lots of Spanish so links are made to this in learning where appropriate. Pupils are regularly encouraged to use previous learning and structures in lessons, particularly when reading longer texts and through translation activities.

Differentiation, particularly for SEND, should enable all learners to reach their full potential. The curriculum is challenging for the most able as it includes stretch opportunities through independent use of dictionaries to broaden vocabulary and access to authentic materials with independent learning in mind.

Impact

Pupils are assessed through different skills and at different points during topics, as well as at the end of topics. This data is used to identify strengths in skills and also weaknesses, so that future tasks and teaching can address the weaknesses, and improve outcomes for pupils.

Termly data drops using the BTED grades are used to summarise the achievement of cohorts and analysis of this is used to identify gaps in learning and that groups of pupils are reaching their full potential.

Pupils are given equal opportunities to thrive and succeed, and will be challenged and supported to overcome all potential barriers to learning. Any apparent barriers will be addressed to enable all pupils to succeed.