

Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum Statement

Curriculum Intent

The purpose of the MFL curriculum is as follows:

- **To build confidence and foster enjoyment in Learning languages.**
- **To motivate students to recognize rich and diverse cultures.**

Vision and values

The vision of the MFL department is to maintain our excellent team of teachers with a breadth of knowledge in their subjects of French, German, Mandarin, and Spanish. Our team of both native and non -native speakers have a passion for teaching their subject and bring real life experience of living and learning languages abroad.

As a faculty we value rich and diverse cultures and thus promote a keen interest in languages up to KS4 with the potential to build our KS5 cohort. We aim to create the very best linguists by challenging students to think, act and speak like those working in the field would. We do this by equipping all our students with the knowledge and skills to thrive and succeed in language learning, encouraging and inspiring them with quality teaching, broadening their awareness of other countries and communities and providing opportunities for participation in a broad range of linguistic and cultural educational experiences.

Our team of expert linguists take pride in their own rich heritage and in delivering a curriculum equally diverse and relevant in a modern world. The department is keen to offer MFL linked trips, partnerships with schools abroad and enrichment activities to inspire and engage in the curriculum. This also includes participating in global cultural celebrations from Chinese New Year to Carnival throughout Europe.

Feedback on the learning journey from students is welcome for us to encourage participation and to maintain a continued relevance of the curriculum in a global context

Planning and sequencing

The MFL curriculum covers various topics at KS3 that link to GCSE topics and units from identity and culture to home and local environment, Tourism and School and future plans. Each year we build on students' former knowledge and skills with planned assessments within the four skill areas of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. While planning and sequencing the curriculum, we ensure that the necessary skills are introduced, regularly practised, and revised.



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These are focused on embedding challenge, scaffolding, modelling metacognition, memory techniques and literacy into our existing departmental curriculum.

We encourage regular and spaced recycling and retrieval of high frequency vocabulary from our “Do Now” activities to our crossover in units and grammar activities during KS3 and into KS4. We revisit verbs and structures across as many of the units as possible to support the storing of knowledge in the long-term memory.

Implementation

Our curriculum in MFL forms a backbone to our statement of intent. Through teacher modelling, we encourage our students to be well-mannered, thoughtful, and mindful of others and our enthusiastic and encouraging approach is mirrored in the engagement and enthusiasm shown by our students. The quality of teaching and learning in MFL has been praised consistently during learning walks by both external trust and internal observers.

We do this by teaching language contextually within topic areas and using target language to model and encourage students to communicate in the foreign language. We use authentic resources to offer immediacy and relevance to the MFL learning experience. Study of foreign language films, music, YouTube videos and texts are all commonplace in the MFL classroom.

Our knowledge-engaged curriculum underpins and enables the application of skills. As a department we carefully plan progression through our curriculum. We revisit content and skills to build on existing knowledge in particular grammar, pronunciation, and tenses. From the outset we teach grammar, phonics, and vocabulary, using the correct terminology and making explicit links to English and other foreign languages’ grammatical structures, pronunciation, and cognates.

Our google classroom platform enables students to work through material delivered by the team and also enables students to revisit learning if they have some aspects particularly challenging. Some google sites with interactive learning activities is also accessible.

Our year 7 students will study either French, German, Mandarin (specialised choice) or Spanish which they will continue to the end of KS3 giving them a strong foundation of language knowledge for them to continue into KS4 if they choose to do so.

Historically offering trips abroad has been at the heart of an MFL department. We currently offer local trips to the Goethe Institut, Instituto Cervantes, and Alliance française. We also promote opportunity through our Mandarin Excellence Programme with various visits planned in the summer term. We do encourage pen-pal exchanges and video links with schools abroad. We intend to plan trips to France, Germany, and Spain for our budding linguists in the very near future.

