

ST HELENA'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, WILLOUGHBY

Policy for Foreign Languages

*Valuing Compassion, Community, Endurance, Friendship, Hope, Respect, Thankfulness,
Wisdom*

Mission Statement

We believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social, and cultural experience for the pupils and are keen to promote the introduction of a Foreign Language to pupils of primary age from Year 3 to 6.

Educational Aims

- to develop pupils' communication and literacy skills that lay the foundation for future language learning
- to develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between the target language and English
- to enhance pupils' awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduce an international dimension to pupils' learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others
- to provide a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects

Objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a Foreign Language in primary school are to:

- foster an interest in learning other languages
- introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun
- stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language
- encourage children to be aware that language has structure and that the structure differs from one language to another
- help the children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries
- develop their speaking and listening skills
- lay the foundations for future study
- extend language teaching beyond mother tongue learning

Approach

We believe in a communicative approach in which all pupils can actively engage in meaningful tasks. French, German and Spanish may be explored during the Spring and Summer Terms. Greatest emphasis will be given to speaking and listening, with writing and some reading where relevant.

The children are taught how to:

- ask and answer questions
- use correct pronunciation and grammar
- memorise words
- interpret meaning
- understand basic grammar
- work in pairs and groups and communicate in French, German or Spanish.
- look at life in another culture

Tasks and activities will:

- have clear, achievable objectives
- be carefully planned and structured
- be practical, active and varied
- involve the use of ICT where appropriate
- include whole class, small group and pair work
- promote success and self esteem

Teaching and learning styles

A multi-sensory and kinesthetic approach to teaching is used, i.e. a physical element is introduced into some of the games, rhymes and songs as this serves to reinforce memory, supported by Oak National Academy online resource. Lessons are made as enjoyable as possible so that the children develop a positive attitude to the learning of Foreign Languages. Children's confidence is built through praise for any contribution they make, however tentative.

Assessment

Teachers assess children's progress informally during the lessons, evaluating progress against the four national Attainment Targets of:

- Listening and Responding;
- Speaking;
- Reading and Responding;

- Writing.

Comments on their progress in languages will be made in the annual report to parents.

GOVERNING BODY

The governors will be invited to attend relevant professional development sessions and to closely monitor and evaluate the impact of any school actions.

They will be invited to visit the school to talk with the staff and children and when possible, observe children learning. They will report back to the full Governing Body on a regular basis.

This policy will be reviewed annually.