



Modern Foreign Language Policy.

This policy is for Barleyhurst Park School and Barleyhurst Park Nursery.

Agreed by Governors: 01.02.2023

To be reviewed: Spring 2026

Introduction

In our school we teach a foreign language in KS2 as part of our normal school curriculum. The school's policy for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) is based on the National Curriculum 2014.

We believe that a Modern Foreign Language prepares pupils to participate and be more successful in a rapidly changing and competitive world in which work and other activities are often carried out in languages other than English. The ever increasing globalisation of our world means that pupils need to be equipped with the skills needed by the international workplace. The choice of which language to teach is secondary to the lifelong language learning skills that the pupils will be encouraged to develop. Skills that they will be able to access in the future will help them to learn new languages or to improve their competence in an existing language.

Increased capability in the use of MFL promotes initiative, confidence and independent learning and encourages diversity within society. The learning of a foreign language also provides a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in our school are:

- To foster an interest in learning other languages;
- To introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- To make young children aware that language has a grammatical structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- To help children develop their awareness of cultural differences;
- To develop their speaking and listening skills;
- To lay the foundations for future study.

Organisation

In our school the KS2 children have a 30-40 minutes lesson of Italian each week, in order to ensure progression and skills development. The lesson is taught by a specialist Italian teacher.

The curriculum

Italian is the modern foreign language that is taught in our school. The curriculum is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. The long-term plan for each year group is developed by the Italian teacher and the topics have been carefully chosen to reflect the children's interests and to ensure clear progression across the years. Weekly lesson plans are reviewed, evaluated and amended regularly in order to ensure appropriate coverage and progression for all year groups and abilities. Each lesson is structured similarly including revision, new learning, visual/auditory stimulus and conversation and writing practice. The emphasis is on applying taught skills in new contexts and giving the children the confidence to speak the language.



The children are taught to:

- Listen attentively to spoken language and repeat what they hear;
- Use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- Develop topic related vocabulary;
- Understand basic grammar;
- Explore the patterns and sounds of language and link sounds to spellings;
- Engage in role-play conversations;
- Answer and ask questions;
- Write words, phrases and sentences from memory;
- Work in pairs and groups;
- Learn about Italian culture and way of life.

Resources

By its nature teaching a foreign language will require lots of visual, auditory and kinaesthetic resources. Practical resources are developed and produced by the specialist teacher. Online resources, such as BBC Schools Languages website and language learning apps on iPads are being used regularly. The children are encouraged to continue learning at home by using online apps/websites and taking learning materials home.

Assessment and Progress tracking

The Italian progression map shows the development of skills and knowledge across the year groups in the 4 National curriculum strands: Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing, Songs, Stories, Poems and Rhymes and Grammar. The pupils' progress is monitored every term against the layered targets using an Excel based target tracker. Most assessment is formative and is used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. There are informal tests usually twice a year. The MFL teacher assesses the children's progress in the target language based on their achievement of the learning objectives in lessons. Any written MFL work is marked in line with the school's policy on marking and evidence from speaking is stored electronically.

Monitoring

Monitoring is carried out in the following ways:

- Informal discussion with staff and pupils;
- Book scrutinies;
- Pupil interviews;
- Classroom observation.