



MFL Curriculum at Gaddesden Row School

Intent

At Gaddesden Row School, we aim to provide a relevant, ambitious and inspiring Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) curriculum through the Twinkl Lightning Languages: Spanish scheme. Spanish is introduced from Year 2, where children begin to explore sounds, words and simple phrases through songs, games and stories that ignite curiosity and enjoyment of language. In Years 4, 5 and 6, pupils receive weekly, year-group-specific Spanish lessons, allowing for clear progression, depth and challenge across Key Stage 2.

Our curriculum is designed to ensure that pupils make excellent progress across the three pillars of language learning – phonics, vocabulary and grammar – while developing confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Lessons are carefully sequenced so that children revisit and build upon prior learning, moving from simple words and phrases to more complex sentences and spontaneous conversation.

Our thematic units provide meaningful contexts for communication and offer opportunities to learn about aspects of Spanish-speaking cultures, helping to build pupils' cultural awareness and curiosity.

In Lower Key Stage 2, learning focuses on listening and speaking, developing accurate pronunciation, intonation and conversational confidence. In Upper Key Stage 2, these skills are extended to include reading and writing, allowing pupils to apply grammatical knowledge to form accurate sentences and express opinions with increasing independence.

By the end of Key Stage 2, every child – regardless of background or ability – will have developed a love of languages, an appreciation of other cultures and the confidence and motivation to continue their language learning journey beyond primary school.

Implementation

Our Spanish curriculum enables all children, including those with additional needs or from disadvantaged backgrounds, to flourish and reach their potential. Lessons are carefully sequenced and scaffolded to build upon prior knowledge, with regular opportunities for recap and retrieval of key vocabulary and grammar.

Each unit follows a clear structure, supported by the comprehensive resources within the Lightning Languages scheme, including lesson PowerPoints with native-speaker audio, sentence-building packs, activity booklets, interactive games, songs, eBooks and culture videos. These

resources ensure that pupils are exposed to authentic spoken Spanish, developing accurate pronunciation and understanding of phonics. The inclusion of culture videos and interactive activities allows children to explore real aspects of life in Spanish-speaking countries, building cultural capital and empathy.

Teachers are supported through detailed planning guidance, adaptive teaching resources and CPD materials built into each unit. This ensures lessons are inclusive, engaging and accessible, even for non-specialist teachers, and that differentiation is embedded through visual support, repetition and extension opportunities.

In Lower Key Stage 2, the emphasis is on oracy – learning through speaking, listening, songs and games. In Upper Key Stage 2, this broadens to include reading and writing, sentence construction and translation activities. Learning is consolidated through repetition and application in new contexts, encouraging independent language use and cross-curricular links where appropriate.

Impact

Through our carefully planned and well-delivered Spanish curriculum, pupils at Gaddesden Row School develop the key skills, knowledge and confidence to communicate in another language.

Children demonstrate a growing bank of vocabulary and grammatical understanding, speak and write with increasing accuracy, fluency and confidence, and show a secure understanding of spoken and written Spanish across a range of tasks and contexts. They develop a genuine interest and enthusiasm for languages and an awareness of the world beyond their own experiences.

Assessment opportunities are built into each unit through Mission Success statements, retrieval quizzes and end-of-topic writing tasks. These enable teachers to track progress across the four key skill areas – speaking, listening, reading and writing – and to identify next steps for learning.

In the classroom, the profile of languages is raised through displays, celebrations of Spanish culture and the use of key vocabulary within classroom environments. Children are encouraged to use Spanish beyond formal lessons, helping to embed a sense of enjoyment and ownership of their learning.

As a result, pupils leave Gaddesden Row as confident, curious and culturally aware learners who are ready and eager to continue their language journey into Key Stage 3 and beyond.