

Blossom Federation

Intent

Pupils at our school learn Spanish and enjoy the benefits of starting to learn a foreign language at an early age. We support the view that learning a modern foreign language is an entitlement for all pupils, regardless of their background and ability, and therefore all pupils are encouraged to develop their full potential in Spanish. Learning a language, and its culture broadens pupils' empathy and cultural outlook. We believe that the earlier the child is exposed to a foreign language, the easier it is to develop their listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. We also believe that learning a foreign language increases their cognitive skills, it sharpens pupil's mind and boots their memory. Furthermore, it impacts positively on pupils' literacy skills in English and in pupils' heritage languages. At our school all pupils feel engaged and enjoy learning Spanish within the context of the culture of the Hispanic world. We also seek to develop our curriculum by finding ways to link languages with other areas of learning, where appropriate.

Implementation

Our curriculum has been designed to progressively develop skills in Spanish. Our Scheme of Work shows how we deliver the National Curriculum Programme of Study for Languages. We refer to the yearly objectives mapped out by Hackney Education to inform our planning. The units of work in which our curriculum is divided, are the medium-term plans, covering approximately half a term each and showing the order in which we teach. These units of work set out the learning intentions in knowledge, skills and understanding, grammar, vocabulary and phonics with assessment approaches and tasks.

To support mastery learning, the skills, phonics, grammar structures and vocabulary are revisited in different themes throughout the school year and key stage. Our lexico-grammar approach speeds up language learning as it combines vocabulary and grammar as a whole, and prioritises teaching in chunks. Excellent accent and intonation are reinforced in every lesson as well, since we believe in a "talk for writing" approach.

The lesson structure each week also allows time to revisit the previous week's knowledge and build upon this (knowledge quizzes, retrieval/review tasks, songs, talk to your partner activities...). Throughout each half term, we assess the pupils' progress informally against our yearly objectives. Pupils are also given the opportunity to self and peer assess. Pupils in KS2 are also assessed at the end of every unit, according to age related expectations in line with curriculum requirements.

Every class has a timetabled lesson slot each week, which is taught by a Spanish language specialist. Lesson time for Key Stage 1 is 20 minutes and it varies between twenty to thirty minutes in Key Stage 2. Class teachers are present during this time and they support pupils' progress through the daily reinforcement of the learning that takes place in the Spanish lessons . Our weekly sessions are aimed at infusing children with a love of Spanish whilst maintaining high educational expectations. Our stimulating curriculum and a diverse approach to teaching, which includes high-quality modelling of language, visual, auditory and kinaesthetic inputs and many opportunities to practice the language, as well as the use of realia, enables us to use different techniques and resources to provide our children with a high-quality language education. Extended learning is promoted by our Spanish Champions, who help other pupils and support their teachers to practice what we learn in Spanish class throughout the week.

Impact

Evidence of impact is provided in the following ways:

- Our school has been awarded a Silver Primary Spanish Award (Premio Español Primaria) for its success in embedding Spanish across the curriculum. This award demonstrates the high quality of the Spanish provision, and recognises well established best practice from schools in Hackney. It is also used by secondary schools to measure the quality of the quality of learning Spanish in primary schools. The award and its criteria were developed by a number of language and education specialists, to promote and encourage outstanding Spanish teaching practice across Hackney. It is endorsed and supported by the British Council, the Spanish Embassy Education Department and the Junta de Castilla y León

- By ongoing assessment against the yearly objectives developed by Hackney Education

- Annual survey of pupils

- Audits of the curriculum to ensure that class teachers include aspects from the Spanish-speaking world

- Lesson observation carried out by the Senior Leadership Team

- Guidance and mentoring by the Executive Head of Blossom Federation

- Year 6 data which shows levels of attainment and is transferred to secondary schools

Learning a foreign language provides an opening to other cultures, fosters pupils' curiosity and deepens their understanding of the world. It helps them to develop communication skills, including key skills of speaking and listening, and extends their knowledge of how language works, helping them to develop their grammar skills, and overall preparing pupils to the challenges of the secondary languages curriculum.