

MFL - Spanish Curriculum Statement of Intent

At OLSJ we are very lucky to have a vibrant and diverse school community, with children whose origins are from many different countries. Therefore, we greatly value the importance of language and exploration of culture and traditions throughout the world.

As Spanish is our chosen modern foreign language, we enjoy learning and exploring the rich and vast heritage of Hispanic culture. Our Local Education Authority, Hackney, is a leading exponent of the teaching of Spanish and provides outstanding CPD and support. We aim to give our children a love for Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) that continues into adult life. We aim to lay foundations to further language learning, especially as it stimulates language development, social development, and cultural awareness.

We believe that 'learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language. They learn to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.' (The National Curriculum in England Framework Document (DfE) 2014) We have based our Spanish Curriculum on the Modern Foreign Languages National Curriculum and the Hackney Education scheme.

Implementation:

At OLSJ, we further enhance our Spanish curriculum through the exploration of Art & Design, Geography, History and RE. This provides an outline of core knowledge and an insight into the cultures of different Spanish-speaking countries. We develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum. From Reception to Year 6, children explore the language at different levels and celebrate the diverse cultures of Hispanic countries. We introduce new vocabulary by learning it through songs and games, which helps retain it in the long term memory and is accessible for all pupils in class. We aim for pupils to develop a wide vocabulary that is stored in long term memory. This will show progress in their MFL learning. Each class has also their own Spanish display with visuals of the key vocabulary.

Early Years (EYFS) and Key Stage 1

Children from Reception to Year 2 explore Spanish through music, art and songs. Teachers incorporate Spanish into the day through morning and afternoon registration. In Key Stage 1, a few basic instructions are introduced to develop early language acquisition skills.

Key Stage 2

Children from Year 3 to Year 6 have one 30+ minute Spanish a week. They also have their own Spanish book that pass up through the school, which gives them (and their teacher) the opportunity to track their progress. By having their own Spanish book, it gives them the opportunity to practice the aspect of writing in Spanish. Each child holds their Spanish book in great esteem and enjoys looking back on what they've learned in previous lessons.

Each summer, the whole school takes part in Hispanic Week, which is celebrated across the Borough of Hackney. The children celebrate a range of Spanish-speaking countries by learning about the different cultures, traditions, food, music and art tied to their chosen country. This weeklong celebration is an opportunity for children to immerse themselves in the rich and vibrant Hispanic culture.

Impact:

Within the Spanish curriculum, we strive to create a supportive environment where children have the opportunity to learn the Spanish language and the different Hispanic cultures and traditions from around the world. Lessons take place in a fun, creative environment where children are given the opportunity to practice speaking Spanish and pronunciation with each other. In Key Stage 2, we give the children the opportunity to converse with one another and practice Spanish in its written form.

We will see the impact of our curriculum through the following:

- Assessing Spanish work in books.
- Talking to the pupils about their learning at the end of each lesson.
- Assessing children's understanding of new vocabulary before and after teaching.
- Children's growing awareness that a language has a structure and they start noticing differences and similarities with their own language.
- At the end of each half term, a Check-It is completed by the children in each class in Key Stage 2 based on a specific target from the Spanish curriculum.
- Moderation staff meetings where pupils' books are shared and there is an opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to understand and share their class's work.
- Annual reporting of standards across the curriculum.

