

BYRON COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES POLICY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Byron Court School is committed to meeting the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community – including their language learning needs.

1.2 The school is situated in a highly diverse community and there are currently more than thirty different languages other than English, spoken in the school.

1.3 The rich linguistic and cultural diversity of the community is celebrated at the school and bilingualism is viewed positively - the cognitive advantages recognised by all.

1.4 We appreciate diversity and we understand and value:-

- the role that language learning, including modern foreign language (MFL) learning, plays in promoting good personal relationships,
- the important contribution that different social, racial, ethnic and linguistic groups make to our community,
- the importance of having opportunities to explore other traditions and cultures,
- the ways that language learning supports our understanding of the wider world and its issues.

1.5 At Byron Court School we recognise that learning foreign languages is increasingly important in a global economy and also has great value in terms of cultural and linguistic richness in our society, personal fulfillment, global citizenship and understanding.

2.0 AIMS

2.1 Pupils will receive a firm foundation in Spanish.

2.2 Pupils will gain cultural knowledge and contact as set out in the ML Primary Framework and QCA Scheme of Work.

2.3 Pupils will build on the linguistic skills they bring with them from their own language backgrounds.

2.4 Pupils will build upon the skills they have acquired through following the Literacy Curriculum.

2.5 Pupils will celebrate the diversity of the language and culture groups we have here at Byron Court.

2.6 Pupils will develop confidence and independence in their understanding and use of Spanish and see themselves as “language learners”.

2.7 Through working through the Framework objectives, pupils will develop an understanding of what it means to learn a foreign language and of the skills and conventions of language learning. They should thus be well placed to learn other languages later on.

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3.0 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Spanish is taught in line with the guidelines in the Primary Framework for Teaching Modern Languages: years 3 to 6. Pupils are taught in their mixed ability class and have one lesson of Spanish each week (45 mins).

3.2 The school is aware of the DfE primary entitlement to language learning which states that "Every child should have the opportunity throughout key stage 2 to study a foreign language and develop their interest in the culture of other nations. They should have access to high quality teaching and learning opportunities, making use of native speakers and e-learning. By age 11 they should have the opportunity to reach a recognised level of competence on the Common European Framework and for that opportunity to be recognised through a national scheme. The Key Stage 2 language learning programme must include at least one of the working languages of the European union and be delivered at least in part in class time."

3.3 Pupils in Key Stage Two are taught Spanish as part of the curriculum by a specialist Spanish teacher from the staff. The programme of study is based on the QCA Key Stage Two Scheme of Work. This Programme of Study comprises of twenty four units over four years. A long term plan ensures that pupils build on prior learning with opportunity to explore a number of units in greater depth.

4.0 ASSESSMENT

4.1 Pupils will be assessed against the end of unit expectations and will complete 'can do' statements from the Language Ladder at Breakthrough and Preliminary levels. Pupils are assessed using guidelines being developed by Asset Languages. This assessment is used towards future planning.

4.2 The school is supported by the Borough School Improvement Service for Modern Foreign Languages.

5.0 RESOURCES

5.1 Espresso, Training for Learning, and school developed materials are the main teaching resources.

5.2 Supplementary teaching materials are also selected from a range of sources including the Internet.

6.0 STAFFING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

6.1. Training for staff is provided where necessary.

7.0 REVIEW

Date of Policy: October 2011

Date of Next Review: October 2014