

At Whitehouse Primary School, foreign language learning is a valued part of our curriculum as we are aware of the internationalist future of our children, recognising the significance of learning another language.

Language Learning at Whitehouse Primary School, teaches children to embrace language acquisition as essential to future success and opens up their curiosity of diverse cultures in the world that they live.



Our Modern Foreign Language curriculum, focuses on acquiring knowledge as well as developing linguistic skills. In teaching Spanish, we make links across the curriculum so that our children are able to make connections with countries studied in Geography and History. Alongside linguistic knowledge, we teach children about larger global concepts of language learning such as religion, tradition, culture, community and linguistic nuance.

The teaching of Modern Foreign Languages follows the National Curriculum - taught discretely as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Emphasis is placed on acquiring vocabulary and language structure to ensure pupils can express themselves in the target language.

The Modern Languages element of our curriculum aims to provide not only the opportunity to learn how to speak and write in Spanish but the chance for our children to develop their awareness of worldwide cultural similarities and differences. We strive to embed the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing necessary to enable children to use and apply their Spanish learning in a variety of contexts and lay the foundations for future language learning. We aim to raise awareness of our multilingual and multicultural world, and introduce an international dimension to learning.

Children at Whitehouse Primary School begin formal Spanish learning in Key Stage Two, with informal oral learning of salutations, number, months and colours in KS1.

Early Years Foundation Stage

At Whitehouse Primary School, the children love learning about other people and their lives from Early Years Foundation Stage. Their Modern Foreign Language learning begins by looking at similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions. They learn about different people and how they have different beliefs, attitudes, customs and traditions and why it is important to treat them with respect.





Key Stage 1

Although at Key Stage 1 there is no specific requirement for the teaching of Modern Foreign Languages, we believe that exposing them to a foreign language at this age, in a fun, engaging and purposeful way, is beneficial. Therefore, all children are taught Spanish across the school. In Key Stage 1, language learning is oral and taught through play and song with some writing at the end of the Key Stage to prepare them for Key Stage 2.

Lower Key Stage 2

Through a ‘Have a Go’ culture that fosters confidence and interest in language learning, children’s creativity and curiosity is stimulated. In Lower Key Stage 2, children build on KS1 knowledge of greetings and simple introductions, begin to explore more of the freedom of expression that speaking a foreign language can offer through the manipulation of grammar while learning about how different cultures celebrate—drawing on their own knowledge to identify similarities and differences. They continue to develop their speaking and listening skills, acquiring new vocabulary, while also beginning to read and write in Spanish; exploring new graphemes to help them achieve this.



Upper Key Stage 2

As the children’s confidence in the target language grows, we aim to increase their speaking and listening skills so they can experiment with language. As the children learn to construct coherent sentences from the vocabulary and phrases they are learning, we draw their attention to the structure of language and how it differs from one language to another. We continue to help the children develop their awareness of worldwide cultural differences and similarities as well as reinforcing and expanding their knowledge and understanding of their own language, including aspects of grammar.

Through language study at Key Stage 2, we set the foundations for future language study through the development of learning strategies—preparing every child for their onward journey to Key Stage 3!

Impact

On their journey at Whitehouse Primary School, all children are immersed in the language and culture of the Hispanic world. They will deepen their understanding of similarities and differences of Spanish-speaking cultures, whilst acquiring listening, speaking, reading and writing skills that will allow them to communicate their thoughts, ideas and opinions. Children will deepen their respect for the way that others live and develop an appreciation for the richness of human diversity. Importantly, immersion in a foreign language and its cultures ensures that we grow tolerant, respectful learners that truly understand the value of individual liberty.