

Modern Foreign Languages

The National Languages Strategy states that “the learning of a foreign language in primary school provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for all pupils. ... It raises awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduces an international dimension to pupils’ learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others.” (page 5). At Tattershall Primary School, we are fortunate to have the capacity to offer discrete German language lessons to all Key Stage 2 children.

A Languages Club is open to all Key Stage 2 children as well as Year 2 children in the spring term so they can have a taster of what learning a new language is like.

Intent – Our hopes for the children.

Tattershall Primary School intends to ignite children’s curiosity for learning about other cultures and make learning new languages fun! We intend to broaden our children’s horizons by offering a relevant, inspiring and bespoke Modern Foreign Languages curriculum, which will encourage and excite children to learn more about the world we live in.

Young learners are receptive to learning a new language. They inherently mimic new sounds so easily grasp and repeat the pronunciation of new words. They have no fear in making mistakes when tackling trickier pronunciations of foreign words – in fact making mistakes is strongly encouraged in German lessons to allow children to witness their own progress. When children learn how to say something new in a second language, they enjoy the sense of accomplishment.

All learners will be expected to achieve their full potential by encouraging high expectations and excellent standards in their foreign language learning – the ultimate goal is that children will be eager and able to continue studying languages beyond key stage 2.

Implementation – How we will achieve our hopes.

At Tattershall Primary School, children are taught one language for the entirety of Key Stage Two. The long term plan for learning German covers a range of topics designed to help the children meet all the objectives of the National Curriculum and those identified in the National Languages Strategy, following the progression model set out by these objectives. The Languages teacher plans activities covering a variety of learning to enable all children to make progress.

Our Modern Foreign Languages curriculum progressively develops the skills required to learn a new language through the five Key Learning Skills:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar (All necessary grammar will be covered in an age-appropriate way across Key Stage 2).

In Key Stage One, children are encouraged to explore different cultures and understand what it is like to be part of another culture through interactive cross-curricular lessons. As their curiosity grows, they will begin to comprehend new vocabulary and phrases including everyday greetings from around the world.

In Key Stage Two, children will begin listening to the German language with it being spoken before they see it in written form. All languages lessons are taught in mixed ability classes to allow the stronger language speakers to support those who are finding it a little bit more difficult, thereby extending their skills as they are being required to 'teach' what they know.

Children will explore the German language and culture through games, songs, conversations, drama and listening. Children will develop their oral abilities before they embark on being able to read and write in German. This will enable children to use and apply their newly learned language skills in a variety of contexts thus building solid foundations for future language learning. German will be integrated into everyday routines, such as the register, labels around school, German Christmas Carols and potentially creating links with schools in Germany as well.

Class 4

Year 3 and 4 learn German and begin by looking at simple greetings and introductions, classroom commands, colours, days of the week, months of the year and numbers 1-100. They move onto family, pets, school life and food. Lessons are very interactive and focus on oral work and games/songs before beginning to write words and short phrases in German.

Class 5

Year 4 and 5 dive deeper into the German language, learning about: hobbies and holidays, school life, daily routines, clothes and going shopping. Although there is still a focus on oral, interactive work, children will continue to write words and short phrases in German. They will also begin to write in sentences using correct German grammar.

Class 6

In Year 6, they will learn about a German town and discover what it is like to live in Germany, especially during Christmas time. They will also develop conversational skills for shopping and dining out with lots of drama and games. The children will begin to write more complex sentences in German using the language skills they have gained throughout key stage 2.

Whole School Learning:

Once a year, the School Council will organise a "Germany Celebration Day" where Key Stage Two children will be able to share their learning with younger children in school and 'teach what they know'. In our annual Christmas Carol Service, the children in Key Stage 2 will share some German Christmas Carols they have been learning to the younger classes and their parents.

Impact

We will continuously monitor the impact and success of teaching German in our school. We aim to embed German culture in our school by creating and discussing cultural links across age groups. Children will actively make links between the German language and their own first language. Children will be excited and show a positive attitude towards learning a new language. They will demonstrate resilience and know that making mistakes is okay and a necessary part of language learning. We are eager to ensure all children gain a secure knowledge and understanding of German to enable them to utilise their language skills confidently and proudly in the future.