



# Language Policy

At Bridgewater Primary School we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them to develop their ability to communicate, including key skills of speaking and listening and extends their knowledge of how language works. It provides excitement, enjoyment and challenge for children and teachers, helping to create enthusiastic learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning throughout life. Learning another language gives children a new perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others. The natural links between languages and other areas of the curriculum can enrich the overall teaching and learning experience. In Early Years and KS1 children are given an introduction to Spanish through song, games and stories. In KS2 lessons are delivered by our Spanish teacher who works alongside our teaching assistants. Having a specific language teacher ensures progression and transition across year groups. The learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, cultural and social experience for children. They develop communication and literacy skills that lay the foundations for future language learning. Pupils develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between the Spanish and English languages. Learning another language raises awareness of the multi-cultural world and introduces an international dimension to children's learning, offering them an insight into their own and others' cultures.

## **Aims**

At Bridgewater Primary School, we aim to

- ❖ foster an interest in another language
- ❖ introduce children to another language in a way that is enjoyable
- ❖ make children aware that language has a structure and that the structures differ between languages
- ❖ help children to develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries
- ❖ develop children's speaking and listening skills
- ❖ lay the foundations for future study.

## **Speaking and listening**

The children will learn to

- listen carefully and recognise sounds and combinations of sounds which are similar to, or different from, those of English;
- understand and respond with increasing competence, accuracy and confidence in a range of situations;
- join in songs, rhymes, raps and stories which enable them to practise the sounds of the language in an enjoyable and non-threatening way;
- take part in conversations at an appropriate level, reacting to instructions and questions and expressing opinions and feelings;
- memorise and recite short texts, and prepare and give a talk on a familiar subject confidently and with regard to the audience.

## **Reading and writing**

The children will learn to

- remember grapheme-phoneme correspondences and vocabulary directly taught and reinforced through word games and similar activities;
- read stories and rhymes for enjoyment and to gain awareness of the structure of the written language;
- read, copy and write independently familiar words and simple phrases in context eg classroom items, display labels, weather chart, date;
- write sentences and short texts independently and from memory.

## **Intercultural understanding**

The children will learn to

- have a knowledge of the everyday lives of children in Spain;
- identify similarities and differences in everyday life, social conventions, traditional stories and celebrations;
- recognise how symbols, products and objects can represent the culture of a country;
- recognise and mistrust stereotypes, and understand and respect cultural diversity.

**N.Bond**

**Reviewed:** January 2021

**Next Review:** Spring 2024