

Primary Languages Policy



Warden House Primary School

Review date: Autumn Term 2021

“You live a new life for every language you speak. If you only know one language, you only live once”
Czech proverb

“Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures...it should foster pupils’ curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world.”
National Curriculum Programme of Study

Intent:

Warden House intends to use the Language Angels scheme of work and resources to ensure we offer a relevant, broad, vibrant and ambitious foreign languages curriculum that will inspire and excite our pupils using a wide variety of topics and themes. All pupils will be expected to achieve their full potential by encouraging high expectations and excellent standards in their foreign language learning - the ultimate aim being that pupils will feel willing and able to continue studying languages beyond key stage 2.

The intent is that all content will be continuously updated and reviewed annually, creating a dynamic programme of study that will be clearly outlined in both long-term and short-term planning. This will ensure that the foreign language knowledge of our pupils progresses within each academic year and is extended year upon year throughout the primary phase and, in so doing, will always be relevant and in line with meeting or exceeding national DfE requirements.

The four key language learning skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing will be taught and all necessary grammar will be covered in an age-appropriate way across the primary phase. This will enable pupils to use and apply their learning in a variety of contexts, laying down solid foundations for future language learning and also helping the children improve overall attainment in other subject areas. In addition, the children will be taught how to look up and research language they are unsure of and they will have a bank of reference materials to help them with their spoken and written tasks going forward. This bank of reference materials will develop into a reference library to help pupils recall and build on previous knowledge throughout their primary school language learning journey.

The intent is that all pupils will develop a genuine interest and positive curiosity about foreign languages, finding them enjoyable and stimulating. Learning a second language will also offer pupils the opportunity to explore relationships between language and identity, develop a deeper understanding of other cultures and the world around them with a better awareness of self, others and cultural differences. The intention is that they will be working towards becoming life-long language learners.

Implementation:

All classes will have access to a very high-quality foreign languages curriculum using the Language Angels scheme of work and resources. This will progressively develop pupil skills in foreign languages through regularly taught and well-planned weekly lessons in KS2 which will be taught by class teachers and/or teaching assistants.

Children will progressively acquire, use and apply a growing bank of vocabulary, language skills and grammatical knowledge organised around age-appropriate topics and themes - building blocks of language into more complex, fluent and authentic language.

All teachers will know where every child is at any point in their foreign language learning journey.

The planning of different levels of challenge and which units to teach at each stage of the academic year will be addressed dynamically and will be reviewed in detail annually as units are updated and added to the scheme. Lessons offering appropriate levels of challenge and stretch will be taught at all times to ensure pupils learn effectively, continuously building their knowledge of and enthusiasm for the language(s) they are learning.

Early Language units are entry level units and are most appropriate for Year 3 pupils or pupils with little or no previous foreign language learning. Intermediate units increase the level of challenge by increasing the amount and complexity (including foreign language grammar concepts) of the foreign language presented to pupils. Intermediate units are suitable for Year 4-5 pupils or pupils with embedded basic knowledge of the foreign language. Progressive and Creative Curriculum units are the most challenging units and are suitable for Year 6 pupils or pupils with a good understanding of the basics of the language they are learning. Grouping units into these Teaching Type categories ensures that the language taught is appropriate to the level of the class and introduced when the children are ready. Children will be taught how to listen and read longer pieces of text gradually in the foreign language and they will have ample opportunities to speak, listen to, read and write the language being taught with and without scaffolds, frames and varying levels of support.

Early Language Units (entry level) and Core Vocabulary lessons are designed to run for approximately 30 minutes. Intermediate, Progressive and Creative Curriculum units are designed to run for approximately 45 minutes.

Grammar is integrated and taught discreetly throughout all appropriate units; its' rules and patterns will be taught by level of challenge:

- We start with nouns and articles and 1st person singular of high frequency verbs in Early Learning units.
- We move on to the use of the possessive, the concept of adjectives, use of the negative form, conjunctions/connectives and introduce the concept of whole regular verb conjugation in Intermediate units.
- We end with opinions and introduce the concept of whole high frequency irregular verb conjugation in Progressive units.

The Progression Map shows precisely how pupil foreign language learning across the key skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar progresses and also how the level of learning and progression of each pupil is increased as pupils move across each subsequently more challenging Language Angels unit.

The school has a unit planner in place which will serve as an overall 'teaching map' outlining for all teachers within the school what each class in each year group will be taught and when it will be taught. Each class in each year group will have an overview of units to be taught during the academic year to ensure substantial progress and learning is achieved. Each progressive teaching unit is divided into 6 fully planned lessons.

- Each unit and lesson will have clearly defined objectives and aims.
- Each lesson will incorporate interactive whiteboard materials to include ample speaking and listening tasks within a lesson.
- Lessons will incorporate challenge sections and desk-based activities that will be offered with three levels of stretch and differentiation. These may be sent home as homework if not completed in class.
- Reading and writing activities will be offered in all units. Some extended reading and writing activities are provided so that native speakers can also be catered for.

- Every unit will include a grammar concept which will increase in complexity as pupils move from Early Language units, through Intermediate units and into Progressive units.
- Extending writing activities are provided to ensure that pupils are recalling previously learnt language and, by reusing it, will be able to recall it and use it with greater ease and accuracy. These tasks will help to link units together and show that pupils are retaining and recalling the language taught with increased fluency and ease.

In addition to following the lessons provided in the Language Angels scheme of work and resources, teachers are encouraged to also do some of the following:

- Foreign language celebration assemblies.
- Cookery sessions of traditional foods from the country of the language being studied.
- Fashion shows demonstrating typical / traditional clothing from the country of the language being studied.
- Weather forecasts based on maps from the country of the language being studied.
- School celebrations of national feast days from the country of the language being studied when appropriate to facilitate a whole school approach to foreign language learning along with improved cultural awareness.

Impact:

As well as each subsequent lesson within a unit being progressive, the teaching type organisation of Language Angels units also directs, drives and guarantees progressive learning and challenge. Units increase in level of challenge, stretch and linguistic and grammatical complexity as pupils move from Early Learning units through Intermediate units and into the most challenging progressive units. Units in each subsequent level of the teaching type categories require more knowledge and application of skills than the previous teaching type. Activities contain progressively more text (both in English and the foreign language being studied) and lessons will have more content as the children become more confident and ambitious with the foreign language they are learning.

Pupils will continuously build on their previous knowledge as they progress in their foreign language learning journey through the primary phase. Previous language will be recycled, revised, recalled and consolidated whenever possible and appropriate.

Children are expected to make good or better than good progress in their foreign language learning and their individual progress is tracked and reported in line with school recommendations.

Inclusion

In all classes, there are children of differing abilities; stages of development and stages of understanding. We recognise this fact and that children's learning is understood developmentally, and provide suitable learning opportunities, for all children, by matching the support and scaffold given to access the learning tasks to meet the needs of the child.

Cross-curricular links

Cross curricular opportunities will be made across subjects where this supports intended learning outcomes, these links will be delivered in a creative and irresistible way.

Assessment, recording, reporting and feedback

The subject leader and class teacher are responsible for assessment, attainment and monitoring the standard of the children's work and the quality of teaching in primary languages in line with the school's assessment policy.

Some examples of methods of assessment that will be used are:

- Pupil voice – to check understanding, understanding of key techniques, progression, confidence in discussing their designs and techniques

- Monitoring of display and books
- Feedback from parents and guests who attend show case events

The role of the subject leader

The subject leader is responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of primary languages, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

The subject leader will:

- Monitor the standards in the subject to ensure that outcomes are at expected levels
- Highlight / Celebrate successes
- Collate appropriate evidence over time – this should show that pupils’ skills and understanding develop over time
- Provide ongoing support to colleagues
- Discussing resource needs with teachers
- Identify areas of CPD need for primary languages across the school

Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership team as part of the school’s two-year review cycle to evaluate the school’s progress towards against its action plan, with additional required action to be identified and tracked by the primary languages subject leader. Progress will be discussed with the school senior leadership team and reported to the governors. This evaluation will form the basis for an action plan, which will then inform the school Short Term Plan.

This Policy was written by Hayley Holyer Term 1 2021
Reviewed by Senior Leadership Team Term 1 2021