

Introduction

At Royles Brook Primary school we teach a foreign language to all KS2 children as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons. Firstly, to encourage interest and appreciation of the rich, diverse world in which we live. Secondly, children enjoy learning a second language. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life. Furthermore, we believe that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school, as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a foreign language in primary school are:

- to foster an interest in learning other languages;
- to introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- to develop their speaking and listening skills; □ to lay the foundations for future study.

Organisation

We teach a foreign language to children in KS2 for 30 minutes a week.

The curriculum

Spanish is the foreign language that we teach in our school.

The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ask and answer questions;
- use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- memorise words;
- interpret meaning;
- understand basic grammar;
- use dictionaries;

- work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other language; □ look at life in another culture.

Teaching and learning style

We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs). We often use puppets and soft toys to demonstrate the foreign language. We frequently use mime to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language, as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation. We emphasise the listening and speaking skills over the reading and writing skills. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, i.e. we try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

Monitoring and review

We monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach in the school. The subject leader also reports to the governing body on the progress of children in Spanish in the same way as in any other subject.

Reviewed by H Horsley (Foreign Language Coordinator)

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