

MFL Curriculum Statement

In line with our whole school curriculum statement, Saint Aidan's is a Church of England High School with an inclusive Christian ethos. Our vision is:

- We **aspire** to be a school where life is lived in "all its fullness" (John 10:10).
- We **believe** in the God-given potential of every one of our students.
- We **succeed** by working together as a school where all can thrive and where excellence is valued.

The MFL curriculum is designed to match this vision, whether in formal lessons or in the wider out of classroom experience for students. Languages are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work. Learning languages contributes to mutual understanding, a sense of global citizenship and personal fulfilment. The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for education, employment and leisure in this country and throughout the world.

The formal MFL curriculum

Aims: Through the teaching of MFL at Saint Aidan's we aim:

- to stimulate, develop and maintain students' curiosity, interest and enjoyment in languages and cultures
- to maximise each student's language learning potential
- to give pupils opportunities to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and to express themselves with increasing confidence, independence and creativity.
- to promote a variety of MFL teaching and learning methods to raise the achievement of students working individually, in pairs or in groups
- to allow students to develop transferable language skills that will aid their progression in other areas of their life and to build confidence, self esteem and communication skills
- to provide MFL continuity and progression from KS2, through KS3 and KS4 and prepare students to use their language skills in further education or the world of work

Objectives: By the end of their MFL education at Saint Aidan's all students should be able:

- to enjoy learning a language, make progress and achieve
- to become confident individuals who are able to communicate in French, German and/or Spanish; developing a level of fluency in their language and grammar capabilities as they proceed
- to understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- to speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- to write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- to discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied
- to obtain the highest MFL GCSE grade that they are capable of

Key Stage 3

Students at KS3 enjoy three hours a week of languages. Year 7 students study one language on entry to Saint Aidan's, either Spanish or German, for the whole year. Most Year 8 and 9 students study both Spanish and German in Year 8 and 9, giving them the option of continuing with both languages to GCSE.

We are in the process of transitioning to a scheme of work designed by NCELP (National Centre for Excellence for Language Pedagogy). The last year group to study our previous scheme of work is currently in Year 9. We have chosen to adopt this new curriculum at KS3 as we believe it will give our students a much firmer grounding in the language, and enable them to become more confident linguists.

Key Stage 4

Students at KS4 enjoy three hours a week of their chosen language in Year 10 and two hours a week in Year 11, following the AQA full course integrated with Viva, Studio and Stimmt SoLs. Students are given the opportunity to further their knowledge of the language with three main themes that we cover:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current study, future study and employment

Students can build on their learning at KS3, explore new vocabulary, tenses and involve themselves in interesting and interactive activities. All lessons are interactive and iPads are used to enhance the learning. There is a strong emphasis on immersing the students in the language and the culture of the country.

Assessment

Student's work is assessed in MFL regularly through weekly vocabulary learning, reading and listening homework and half term assessments to check on understanding. This allows the right support to be provided, to inform the next stages of teaching and to allow students and parents to be informed of progress. Target setting in MFL is challenging at both Key Stages and grading is applied in all years to allow students and parents to monitor progress across all five years.

Beyond the formal MFL curriculum

The Faculty offers a Greek and Latin club for KS3 students. We also hold regular revision clubs for KS4 students both after school and at lunchtimes.

We have recently set up a penpal exchange with **Anne Sullivan School** in Barcelona, and we are in the process of re-establishing links with our previous German exchange partner, the **Christoph-Scheiner Gymnasium** in Ingolstadt.

As a team we believe it is essential to offer as many of our students as possible the opportunity to take part in an educational visit to widen their cultural understanding and give them a chance to practise the language they have been learning in the real world. Therefore, we are continuing to build on our educational visits programme. This year visits include KS4 visits to **Cologne** in December and to **Barcelona** in April. In October 2023, 60 KS3 German students will also have the opportunity to take part in a trip to **Hellenthal**, which is a language immersion and activity centre in the Nordrhein-Westfalen region of Germany.