

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 in Year 7 and 2 hours in Years 8 and 9. Students study one language on entry to Saint Aidan's, either Spanish or German.

We are in the process of transitioning to a scheme of work designed by Oak National Academy. We have chosen to adopt this new curriculum as we believe it will give our students a much firmer grounding in the language, and enable them to become more confident linguists.

Our scheme of work is designed around 3 key strands of language learning: **Phonics, Vocabulary and Grammar**. The vocabulary our students learn is selected from the most common words used in day to day conversations, with the intention that our students gain a sounder grasp of language which would be most useful to them if they were to visit/study or live in a German/Spanish speaking country.

Key Stage 4

Students at KS4 follow the AQA specification. At KS4 we are also transitioning to the OAK Academy Scheme of Learning, which continues to build upon the skills developed at KS3. We are tailoring the curriculum with an extra focus on exam skills to offer students the best chance of success at GCSE.

Students are given the opportunity to further their knowledge of the language with three main themes that we cover:

1. Identity and relationship with others.
2. Healthy living and lifestyle.
3. Education and work.

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 regular summative 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.

Beyond the formal MFL curriculum

We 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 setting up online links with **Elbschule** near Hamburg through the E-Space scheme organised by UK-German Connection.

Every September we celebrate the **European Day of Languages** with a week of events including special assemblies, a house quiz and our very successful "Bake Off".

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. We offer regular KS4 visits to **Cologne, Berlin** and **Barcelona**.