

What to avoid

Please don't use Google Translate with your child - this can be a really useful aid for adults when you have a written document you are trying to understand or a few key phrases you want to say, however, it has limitations - it is far better for your child to use the language they have and to come up with creative ways of getting their message across than to type it into Google Translate and come out with a very formal and sometimes non-sensical speech which they have no understanding of. Avoid over-correcting your child - so instead of saying 'you didn't pronounce that correctly' try saying it back to them with the correct pronunciation or grammatical structure, in a similar way you supported your child's learning of their mother tongue. Discourage your child using the English sound system to write down words they want to remember in another language - so if they want to know how to write a word give them the correct spelling, this will stop incorrect spellings being reinforced.



Try this at home...

- Prepare a French or Spanish meal or snack
- Count to ten in either language
- Listen to French/Spanish music
- Name some French/Spanish cities
- Create some French/Spanish flashcards and place them face down on a table. Your child will flip over two cards. If the pictures match, your child will flip over two more cards. The point of the game is to match all of the cards from memory.



Modern Languages

A Guide for Parents & Carers



Learning a new language encourages children and young people to broaden their horizons as they explore the language and its associated culture.

Why learn another language?

Today's children are growing up in a multi-lingual world. The ability to communicate effectively in social, academic and commercial settings is crucial if they are to play their part as global citizens.

By 2020 all children from P1 onwards, in Scotland, will have the opportunity to learn an additional modern language, and from P5, the opportunity to learn a third language. In our school all children will learn French from P1 and Spanish from P4 (in accordance with our class structure).



What does this look like in school?

We steadily build up children's exposure and use of French in everyday experiences, such as counting, colours, lining up and getting ready, classroom instructions e.g sit down, doing the register etc. This allows the children to have lots of practice within a real and purposeful context.

We engage the children in conversations, websites, videos and books to support them understand the focus on communication rather than translation. This allows the children to use the language they know and visual clues, to find the overall meaning in a text or story.

Children will also learn key vocabulary and phrases around a theme. Our programme gradually builds up children's language knowledge in a systematic way.

In addition to learning the language children will also learn about what it is like to live in France/Spain and their cultures and traditions.



How can I support my child in learning a new language?

Encourage your child to share their language learning at home and praise them for their efforts, even if it isn't quite right, remember the focus is on communication rather than entirely correct grammatical structures and pronunciation. Borrow stories and books in other languages from the local library. There are also a selection of songs, rhymes and stories on YouTube which might be helpful.

