

Bellsbank Primary School and
Early Childhood Centre



Modern Foreign Languages Policy

November 2021

1. Rationale

Today's children are growing up in a multilingual world and the ability to communicate effectively in social, academic and work-based environments is crucial if they are to play their full part as global citizens. The Scottish Government's policy, Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach, is aimed at ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn a modern foreign language (MFL) from Primary 1 onwards. Additionally, each child should have the right to learn a second MFL from Primary 5 onwards.

Research shows that younger learners are at a stage in their development where they are receptive to learning another language. Their motivation and enthusiasm are high, while their levels of inhibition are typically lower than at later stages. These factors mean that younger children often find it easier to mimic correct pronunciation and experiment with new words and phrases in an unfamiliar language. Research evidence also indicates that learning a MFL can foster a deeper understanding of one's own language and has positive educational benefits which contribute to the overall cognitive and linguistic development of children. At Bellsbank Primary School and Early Childhood Centre (ECC), we will build on children's natural curiosity for sounds and words and their strong desire to communicate.

We have built capacity for the teaching of two languages in addition to English. We deliver French as our second language (L2) from pre-school – P7. We teach Spanish as our third language (L3) from P5-P7 in line with the Modern Languages programme offered at Doon Academy.

2. Aim

Bellsbank Primary School and ECC is committed to the development of Modern Foreign Language learning for all pupils. It is our aim to ensure that staff are able to provide high quality educational, social and cultural experiences for our pupils.

We will achieve this aim by:

- Nurturing positive attitudes towards MFL learning and fostering an interest in learning other languages.

- Stimulating children’s natural curiosity about language by introducing young children to French and Spanish in a way which is enjoyable and fun.
- Enhancing pupils’ awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world they live in, giving them an insight into the culture of their own country and other countries around the world.
- Developing pupils’ communication and literacy skills that lay the foundation for future language learning.
- Developing linguistic competence, extending their knowledge of how language works and exploring differences and similarities between the target language and English.

3. Delivery of Modern Foreign Languages

Effective Learning and Teaching

French will be delivered as our first modern language (L2) which will be taught from pre-school through to P7. A communicative approach is applied in which all pupils can actively engage in meaningful tasks. Emphasis will be given to speaking and listening tasks in French, with writing and some reading tasks where relevant. It has been agreed within the Doon Primary Cluster that Spanish will be taught as our second modern language (L3) as pupils will have the opportunity to continue their studies in Spanish at Doon Academy. Pupils will learn about Spanish language and culture from P5-P7 throughout Term 4 of the school academic session.

Throughout their language learning experience at Bellsbank Primary School and ECC, pupils will learn how to:

- Ask and answer questions
- Use correct pronunciation and grammar
- Memorise words
- Interpret meaning
- Work in pairs and groups to communicate in French and Spanish
- Look at life in another culture
- Understand basic grammar

- Use dictionaries

Our Modern Foreign Language lessons will:

- Have clear and achievable learning intentions which are pupil centred
- Be carefully planned in line with East Ayrshire's progression grids
- Be practical, active and engaging
- Involve the use of ICT where appropriate
- Provide access to native speakers through the use of ICT
- Include whole class, small group and pair work
- Promote success and self-esteem

Throughout their learning in MFLs pupils are encouraged to increase their knowledge of how the target language works and are given the opportunity to explore the differences and similarities between the target language and English. Pupils are able to do this through a variety of learning styles including stories, songs, rhymes, games, pictures, video and audio materials and ICT. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their own culture and knowledge about language and compare this to the culture and language structure of the target language being taught. Within their MFL lessons pupils have the opportunity to work individually, in pairs, in small groups and in whole class situations according to the activity. Work is mainly oral within the primary setting, with a steady increase in reading and writing activities as pupils' progress through First into Second Level. Teachers and practitioners make lessons as enjoyable as possible, ensuring that pupils develop a positive attitude to the learning of Modern Foreign Languages.

Planning

Modern Foreign Languages should be planned within the long term (backdrop) planner for the year and in teacher's weekly planners for their class. Weekly planners should include learning intentions, activities planned for the lesson and the resources to be used. The East

Ayrshire Modern Languages progression grids should be used when planning to ensure planning is focused on the outcomes and benchmarks and that there is appropriate progression throughout. The progression grids should be highlighted to show coverage/achievement of the outcomes at the appropriate level. This information should be stored digitally on Teams and available for future planning in following years. When planning, teachers should, as far as possible, follow the EAC guidance for French linked to the Accès Studio textbooks which are stored in the school storeroom i.e. P4 (Units 1-4); P5 (Units 5-7), P6 (Units 8-9), P7 (Units 9+). This resource is used across the Doon Cluster in line with the French programme delivered at Doon Academy. Links to Doon Academy's Language Department are embedded to ensure strong transactions take place between P7-S1. Doon Academy have provided the Doon Cluster primary schools with a bank of resources to be used in Spanish lessons as well as a "Primary Spanish Plan" (see appendix 1) which they have made available on their 1+2 French and Spanish team on MS Teams.

Resources

Teaching and learning in Primary 1 will follow East Ayrshire Council's Early Level experiences, outcomes and benchmarks and Primary 2 will follow East Ayrshire's Modern Languages Progression Grids for First Level. The Camembear resources will be used in the infant classes to support and develop French language learning. The teaching and learning of French in Primaries 3-7 will also follow East Ayrshire's Progression Grids for First and Second Level, using Access Studio Primary textbooks and online resources to support learning. Accès Studio online resources can be found via the website [pearsonactivelearn.com](https://www.pearsonactivelearn.com) and usernames and passwords can also be found on the school MS Teams Site. We have also recently purchased an engaging and interactive resource, High Five French which allows learners to build their knowledge of the French language alongside a Scottish pupil, Emma. The videos and radio show in this resource allow pupils' access to a

native speaker, Mathilde, who teaches Emma basic vocabulary and phrases. High Five French enables pupils to have a real sense of what French sounds like when spoken by a native speaker and how to engage in conversation with a native speaker. A bank of online resources such as activity sheets and challenges are also available on High Five French as well as lesson plans which teachers can follow or adapt to suit their class. High Five French can be accessed via the website rlneducation.com and log in instructions can be found on the school MS Teams Site.

French vocabulary and activity lists are also available for each primary stage within East Ayrshire's Archived Primary Language Learning Frameworks (see appendix 2). Each primary stage has a list of the topic specific vocabulary which should be taught throughout the year and a variety of activities and contexts in which this key vocabulary can be taught. All files are easily available on the school MS Teams Site along with a bank of resources for each topic area of French.

Assessment

Teacher assessments at class level should be carried out on an on-going basis through observations, discussions and plenaries within planned MFL lessons, as well as day-to-day activities such as answering the register and saying the date and weather in the target language. Children should demonstrate progress in their communication skills, in their knowledge about language structure and in their awareness of the cultural and geographical aspects of the target language. Assessment should promote enthusiasm, motivation and willingness to try out the language in other areas of the curriculum and beyond school.

As children come to the end of First Level within French, they should be able to:

- Exchange personal information
- Understand and respond to familiar questions
- Read aloud with increasing confidence

- Show awareness of pronunciation rules
- Demonstrate increasing confidence and demonstrate knowledge about cultural differences, customs & festivals.

By the end of Second Level children should be able to:

- Give a short presentation about themselves;
- Take part in conversations;
- Understand classroom instructions;
- Enjoy listening to a story, song or poem;
- Read aloud a simple text;
- Read and understand a short text and write about themselves and others.

Appendix 1

PRIMARY SPANISH P5-7

(P5) Alphabet:

I will be able to recite the alphabet.

I will be able to spell at least 3 words.

(P5) Name and Greetings:

I will be able to say my name to my partner and ask my partner his or her name.

I will be able to ask my partner how he or she is feeling.

I will be able to tell my partner about how I am feeling.

(P5) Age and Numbers:

I will be able to count to 21.

I will be able to tell my partner how old I am.

I will be able to ask my partner their age.

(P6) Birthday and dates:

I will be able to recite the months of the year.

I will be able to recite the days of the week.

I will be able to tell my partner when my birthday is.

I will be able to ask my partner their birth date.

(P6) Colours:

I will know at least 5 different colours.

I will be able to tell my partner my favourite colour.

(P6) Weather:

I will be able to describe today's weather.

(P7) Where you live/nationality:

I will be able to know 4 nationalities and countries.

I will be able to describe where I live.

I will be able to recognise 4 Spanish speaking countries.

I will know at least 2 interesting facts about Spanish speaking countries.

(P7) Family:

I will be able to describe my family.

(P7) Pets:

I will be able to remember at least 5 animals.

I will be able to tell my partner about my pets.

Food and drink: - (This can be taught each year as pupils learn about Spanish culture.)

I will be able to remember 5 foods and drinks.

I will be able to tell my partner about what I eat and drink.

Appendix 2

East Ayrshire's Archived Primary Language Learning Frameworks P1 - 7

Primary 1 Vocabulary and Activity Planner

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/EastAyrshire/ealang1plus2main2019/ealang12newfrenchmain2019/Primary%20Framework%20Documents/ARCHIVE%20OLD%20FRENCH%20FRAMEWORKS%20P1%20TO%20P7/Primary%201%20Vocabulary%20and%20Activity%20Planner.pdf>

Primary 2 Vocabulary and Activity Planner

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/EastAyrshire/ealang1plus2main2019/ealang12newfrenchmain2019/Primary%20Framework%20Documents/ARCHIVE%20OLD%20FRENCH%20FRAMEWORKS%20P1%20TO%20P7/Primary%202%20Vocabulary%20and%20Activity%20Planner.pdf>

Primary 3 Vocabulary and Activity Planner

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/EastAyrshire/ealang1plus2main2019/ealang12newfrenchmain2019/Primary%20Framework%20Documents/ARCHIVE%20OLD%20FRENCH%20FRAMEWORKS%20P1%20TO%20P7/Primary%203%20Vocabulary%20and%20Activity%20Planner.pdf>

Primary 4 Vocabulary and Activity Planner

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/EastAyrshire/ealang1plus2main2019/ealang12newfrenchmain2019/Primary%20Framework%20Documents/ARCHIVE%20OLD%20FRENCH%20FRAMEWORKS%20P1%20TO%20P7/Primary%204%20Activity%20and%20Vocabulary%20Planner.pdf>

Primary 5 Vocabulary and Activity Planner

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/EastAyrshire/ealang1plus2main2019/ealang12newfrenchmain2019/Primary%20Framework%20Documents/ARCHIVE%20OLD%20FRENCH%20FRAMEWORKS%20P1%20TO%20P7/Primary%205%20Activity%20and%20Vocabulary%20Planner.pdf>

Primary 6 Vocabulary and Activity Planner

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/EastAyrshire/ealang1plus2main2019/ealang12newfrenchmain2019/Primary%20Framework%20Documents/ARCHIVE%20OLD%20FRENCH%20FRAMEWORKS%20P1%20TO%20P7/Primary%206%20Activity%20and%20Vocabulary%20Planner.pdf>

Primary 7 Vocabulary and Activity Planner

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/EastAyrshire/ealang1plus2main2019/ealang12newfrenchmain2019/Primary%20Framework%20Documents/ARCHIVE%20OLD%20FRENCH%20FRAMEWORKS%20P1%20TO%20P7/Primary%207%20Activity%20and%20Vocabulary%20Planner.pdf>