



# Dreghorn Primary School and Early Years Class

## 1+2 Primary Language Learning Guidance



### Rationale

Research has shown that exposure to different languages is beneficial for children's development. They become more aware of different cultures, other people and other points of view. Bringing very young children into contact with foreign languages may result in faster language learning as well as improved mother tongue skills.

Scotland's National Centre for Languages SCILT

### Aims

In Dreghorn, Primary Language Learning will:

- Develop the ability to communicate thoughts and feelings and respond to those of other people.
- Develop the high level of skills in listening, talking, reading and writing that are essential for learning, work and life.
- Use and develop skills in different media effectively for learning and communication.
- Develop a secure understanding of how language works and how to communicate ideas and information in English and other languages.
- Develop pupil confidence through active class and group learning and teaching activities.
- Develop an awareness of contemporary European culture through the experience of music, dance, drama and food technology.

### Learning and Teaching Approaches

French is L2 and Spanish is L3 at Dreghorn Primary

Children at Early Level will enjoy language learning with songs, poems, rhymes and games, which provide a very strong linguistic basis for children's learning and enjoyment of language. Prior to second level, activities should progress from being predominantly oral and aural, to exploring the written word, with a carefully planned introduction to word formation in the modern language. As children's curiosity about the formation of words increases through their learning of literacy and English, the examination of word formation is likely to increase their ability to form simple words in the modern language. A focus on awareness of onset and rime through games, songs and rhymes will be beneficial and will help to introduce sound patterns.

As children move towards and through second level, practitioners will increasingly seek to use real-life stimuli in the target language. For



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example, judicious use of songs, poetry, conversations or television clips from an area where the target language is spoken can provide challenge and motivation.

Activities and tasks in the modern language need to be engaging, motivating and relevant, allowing children to enjoy practicing new sounds and phrases and building their confidence continuously in using the language. On the approach to second level, this will increasingly include examples of writing as well as reading, listening and talking.

At the early stages, activities are best when they relate clearly to the experiences and outcomes in early literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, and to the wider curriculum. To ensure depth and progression, practitioners will find it useful to refer to the subsequent level when planning learning activities. This will allow children the opportunity to branch out and extend their skills in the significant aspects of learning. This will also help ensure children's readiness to learn and develop skills at each subsequent level.

Activities need to be planned and delivered so that they are integrated into different contexts for learning. In this way, the modern language will become part of the wider curriculum, so that the use and application of the modern language becomes the norm. Primary practitioners will also want to plan discrete lessons in the modern language and Knowledge about Language. Discrete language lessons are key to ensuring children gain the necessary language skills, vocabulary and confidence to apply what they have learned in the modern language into wider contexts and everyday situations. Discrete language lessons will still be a feature as children move towards and through second level.

#### **Class Organisation**

##### **L2 French**

Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 will follow a planned framework of learning and teaching activities in addition to integrating skills within the everyday context of the school day. At this level French will have planned teaching and learning experiences of one hour as part of the class weekly timetable. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their language skills by following High Five French, an ICT/ Technology program that supports the learning outcomes through videos, engaging oral and visual activities and interactive games.



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Primary 1,2,3, and Primary4 will also follow a progressive framework of activities that will be active, engaging and integrated into the different contexts of their curricular learning experiences. Primary 1, 2, and 3 will embed Language Learning into their daily classroom activities in addition to discrete lessons when planned and timetabled appropriate and relevant. Interdisciplinary Studies will also successfully develop knowledge and skills of people, place and culture.

In addition, The Early Years Class will have termly visits from school staff to introduce our young nursery children to French through creative experiences.

### **L3 Spanish**

By 2020 Spanish will have been introduced throughout the stages and be taught in addition to the primary additional language French. This will be experienced through songs, daily routine, IDL and language and culture which enhances teaching and learning in other areas of the curriculum. Direct teaching will take place in 'blocks' from P4 to P7.

### **Planning, Evaluation, Assessment and Recording**

North Ayrshire Primary Language Learning Framework will be used as a planning structure and to 'highlight' key language and skills covered. This document will be used to inform teachers of progression through the skills.

### **Resources**

Our school has a variety of resources to meet the needs of a whole school approach to Language Learning. Our pupils are encouraged to be independent learners through the use of Technology /ICT." Education City" has engaging activities from Early to Second Level and supports all areas of the planning framework for both French and Spanish. In addition High Five French and High Five Spanish supports the teaching and learning activities of French and Spanish.

The North Ayrshire Teacher resource tile found on Glow for Primary Language Learning provides a wealth of resources, links and teacher guides to support teaching and learning.

Whenever possible we welcome Foreign Language Assistants in French, Spanish and Mandarin to work with our teachers and pupils to enrich the Language Learning experience.



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The Early Years Class will have termly visits for both the morning and afternoon sessions by mutual agreement of the Early Years and School staff.

