Modern languages Policy

Updated January 2013
Mission statement

Curriculum for Excellence states that:

“It is important for the nation’s prosperity that young people are attracted to learning a modern language and that they become confident users of a modern language, well equipped with the skills needed in the new Europe and in the global marketplace.”

(Modern languages: principles and practice)
Rationale and aims:
The modern languages programme at Mossneuk Primary follows Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) guidelines. Each member of staff has his/her own copy of CfE guidelines and refers to them in planning for learning and teaching.

Curriculum for Excellence states that: ‘The study of a modern language has a unique contribution to make to the development of cultural awareness as it provides children and young people with a means of communicating directly with people from different cultures, enhancing their understanding and enjoyment of other cultures and of their own. They gain insights into other ways of thinking and other views of the world and therefore develop a much richer understanding of active citizenship’.

Mossneuk Primary school aims to support all children as they develop to become

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens and
- Effective contributors

through a structured programme of study which capitalises on opportunities to plan responsively and develop modern language skills across the curriculum.

Curriculum for Excellence guidelines state the aims of teaching a modern language as:

- To develop young people’s ‘communicative competence’ so that they are able to use and enjoy the language effectively in real situations and for a range of relevant purposes in work and leisure throughout their life
- To enable children to make connections with different people and their cultures, becoming aware of the interconnected nature of language

Our pupils will be encouraged to develop a responsibility for their learning by ensuring:

- Awareness of what is expected of them through the sharing of success criteria and learning intentions.
- Provision of appropriate feedback through self, peer and teacher assessment.
• Promotion of reflection on where they are and on the next steps for progression.

The framework for modern languages provides a set of statements that describe the kinds of activity our young people will experience throughout school and our staff will refer to these statements and to the more detailed experiences and outcomes when planning for learning and teaching.

**Modern languages organisers**

Within the literacy and language framework, there are three organisers and within these organisers there are sub-divisions:

1. **Listening and talking**
   - Listening for information
   - Listening and talking with others
   - Organising and using information
   - Using knowledge about language

2. **Reading**
   - Finding and using information
   - Reading to appreciate other cultures
   - Reading for interest and enjoyment
   - Using knowledge about language

3. **Writing**
   - Organising and using information
   - Using knowledge about language

In planning, our staff will consider each organiser and the sub-divisions across the curricular areas, taking account of individual needs and abilities.

Across the Curriculum for Excellence levels, challenge and progression appropriate to individual abilities will be at the heart of learning and teaching to ensure that each child achieves his or her potential. Through active learning strategies, we provide opportunities which support a range of learning styles.

We aspire to make learning coherent and relevant in order that learners link the purpose and value of the experiences to their lives, present and future.

We strive to make learning motivating, engaging, active and fun!
Although P6 is the stage at which children generally learn a second language, at Mossneuk we aim to begin earlier, including in preschool. At Early and First level, children will learn informally through playing games, singing songs and carrying out simple instructions. They will also experience other languages in a cross curricular fashion, for example through a topic on Europe or on The Olympics.

**Assessment, recording and reporting**
A range of effective practices lead to a shared understanding of standards and expectations, ensuring that learners’ progress and achievements are tracked and steps can be taken to address any problems at the earliest possible point.

- Staff assess constantly as part of learning and teaching

- Mossneuk Primary is an AfL school and staff recognise the importance of assessment in providing a clear picture of the progress each child is making and in planning for further learning to ensure consolidation and progression. Each child is given regular feedback to identify next steps and set personal targets

- Evidence of progress in developing and applying skills across the curriculum complements evidence gathered from language lessons.

- Staff discuss standards and expectations with stage partners, as a whole staff and with colleagues within our learning community to promote a shared understanding of expectations

- SMT and peer visits promote professional dialogue about children’s progress

- SMT regularly sample pupils’ work

- The format for recording assessment results is varied, eg. written, pictorial, digital, a product, audio-visual, and will be used by teacher and pupil in planning next steps in learning
- Parents/carers receive regular information about their child's strengths, progress and achievements and are be encouraged to support their child as appropriate.

- Formal parent/carer interviews take place twice per year, when parents have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher.

**Use of Media in Modern languages**

We use an ever increasing range of technological resources to support literacy across the curriculum.

- GLOW
- Smart board
- Computer (PC and ipad/ Internet/ Power point
- Listening centres
- Microphones
- MP3 and I-Pod
- Film
- Digital photography
- Beebots
- Music
- Mobile phones

Our programme of study for Modern languages details the use of these resources.