

## MFL Philosophy

Irby Primary School aims to give its students a lifelong love of languages. Lessons are lively, interactive and involve a variety of speaking and listening activities. In upper KS2 more reading and writing activities are introduced to reflect the skills of the students. Songs are sung, games played and everyone is encouraged to have a go. The aim is to give all students confidence. The cultural aspects of each language are also studied and the students find these fascinating especially in the ways that they differ from their own.

### Why study three languages?

It is our belief that this is the best way to serve the interests of our students, both during their time with us and in their future language studies at secondary school. Our students go on to a variety of secondary schools (often at least 9 different ones) where they study a variety of different languages. The most common of these are Spanish, French and Mandarin Chinese. We have chosen these 3 languages to try and provide our students with a firm base to build on. The skills learnt in one language are readily applied to another and make learning another language much easier. We want our students to take a positive attitude and a feeling of success with them as they approach the challenges of secondary school.

### What can students do to support their own language learning?

Learning a language is all about repetition, in as many different ways as possible. Encourage your child to say what they have been learning - maybe they could even teach you! If they spend a few minutes each day practising then they will notice the benefits. It can be as simple as counting, saying colours as they see them, greeting people, etc. There are lots of excellent websites available with audio and games to practise (links available on VLE). If you go on holiday encourage your child to use their language skills.

### MFL - Multiple Language Model Explanation

Since introducing languages Irby Primary School has tried to give its students a taste of a variety of languages including French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and Russian. Since 2012 there has been an established model:

- F2/KS1 - Mandarin Chinese (part of our links to Calday Grange Grammar School)
- KS2 - Years 3/4 French  
Years 5/6 Spanish

This has proved a successful model with students enjoying the variety of languages, the different topics and the links to their other work in the curriculum. The skills learnt in each language are transferable and therefore helps the students to pick up a new language more quickly. It is very pleasing to see these skills being utilised.

One of the main reasons that we have decided to continue this model, although we are aware that the new curriculum for teaching from Sept 2014 advises the studying of one language for a four year period across KS2, is the unusual circumstances of our school. Unlike the majority of primary schools in other parts of the country we do not feed into one main secondary school and cannot therefore guarantee continuity of language studied or fully liaise with our secondary partner to ensure continuity of learning. Our students go on to study a variety of different languages in as many as 9 different schools in one year. Wirral offers a variety of secondary school options and due to our location our students are well placed to take advantage of their secondary education at a wide variety of schools, all of which offer a different language model. (See Appendix A). We therefore feel it is in the best interests of our students to provide a wider variety of languages and to give them the skills to transfer to secondary schools so that they have the confidence to learn in whichever language they go on to study.

In our language model we have chosen the most commonly taught languages in our destination schools. The order has been chosen to best fit this model and to reflect the expertise of the staff teaching them and to ensure strong cross curricular links within the creative curriculum. Our students make good progress in a variety of languages due to their engagement in learning and the commitment of staff in delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. If they studied just one language then some students would show further progress especially in written language, however, a large number of students would become disengaged as they are not yet ready to cope with the demands of higher level language learning and risk being demotivated when commencing secondary school.

When planning for the new curriculum the issue of which language to study was discussed at length by the teaching body, SLT and governors with the pros and cons of different models put forward. After consideration it was felt that the current model best suited our school and our children. MFL is a very popular subject at Irby Primary School. Students enjoy it and are successful in it which gives them confidence as they move on to secondary school and forms a good base for their future language learning.