

THE ROCHE SCHOOL
SPANISH POLICY

This policy which applies to the whole school is saved on the school shared system and upon request a copy (which can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required) may be obtained from the School Office.

Information Sharing Category	Public Domain / School Shared System (Public copy provided on request)
Date Published	January 2024
Authorised by (if required)	SLT
Review/Update Date	January 2025
Responsible Area	Sophie Roche

Introduction

The Roche School Spanish Policy applies to The Roche School: our Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

In accordance with, and beyond the requirements of these regulations, The Roche School makes its policies available to view on the public area of the school's website – www.therocheschool.com.

Definition

At The Roche School, we aim for Spanish to gradually replace French as the core language taught at the school. There are several reasons for this shift: Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world, it is an official language of the UN, the European Union and other international institutions, and the British Council (2017) noted that it is the most important for people in UK to learn.

Alongside aiming to teach Spanish as the main foreign language at the school, we have also begun a Spanish Bilingual Stream in Reception and Year 1. Mornings in the Spanish Bilingual Stream consist of the same curriculum in English as the English stream; afternoons involve lessons in Spanish where applicable based on the Early Years Foundation Stage or National Curriculum, delivered by a qualified teacher with in-depth Spanish fluency alongside a native Spanish-speaking Teaching Assistant. Our current specialist teachers in Music and Sport provide lessons in the related Foundation Subjects.

Through the teaching of Spanish, the aim is for children to develop a familiarity with the language, whilst developing an interest in and curiosity about the wider world.

We believe that learning a language enriches the whole school curriculum. The links between languages and other areas of the curriculum can enhance the overall teaching and learning experience. We highlight this during our annual Languages Week, where the school immerses itself in Hispanic and French language and culture. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained in Spanish lessons contribute to the development of children's oracy and literacy and to their understanding of their own culture/s and those of others.

We believe that learning a language should provide excitement, enjoyment and challenge for children, helping to create enthusiastic learners and to develop positive attitudes to language learning throughout life.

The Roche School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all children fulfil their potential

Aims and values

The aims of Spanish lessons in the English Stream are for pupils to:

- develop an enthusiasm for learning languages;
- develop an awareness of the benefits of understanding and speaking a different language;
- start to communicate, and gain confidence, in another language by speaking and listening;
- respect and understand other cultures, heritage and multilingualism;
- become involved in the international dimensions of the school;
- gain enjoyment, pride and a sense of achievement;
- explore and apply strategies to improve their learning.

The aims of the Spanish Bilingual Stream are for pupils to:

- develop an enthusiasm for learning languages;
- develop greater awareness of the benefits of understanding and speaking a different language;
- start to communicate and gain confidence in another language initially by speaking and listening, and later with reading and writing;
- respect and understand other cultures, heritage and multilingualism;
- become involved in the international dimensions of the school;
- gain enjoyment, pride and a sense of achievement;
- explore and apply strategies to improve their learning;
- be further exposed to Spanish than in a traditional primary school setting;
- in Reception, work towards Spanish assessment statements created by the school based on the EYFS Development Matters statements;
- in Year 1, work towards Spanish assessment statements created by the school.

Planning

Planning for Spanish lessons in the English Stream in Reception and Year 1 is focused on children developing an awareness of some of the approaches to learning a new language. The focus is primarily on developing aural skills through listening and speaking.

Planning for lessons in the Spanish Bilingual Stream in Reception is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage, and applicable afternoon lessons are delivered in Spanish; in Year 1, lessons are based on the National Curriculum and applicable afternoon lessons are delivered in Spanish. Planning for these lessons adheres to the expectations outlined for lessons taught in English-speaking classrooms also and can be found in the EYFS Curriculum Map and Year 1 Curriculum Map.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning for Spanish lessons in the English Stream is focused on children developing an awareness of some of the foundational approaches to learning a new language. These include imitating, memorising, repeating, and using mime and gesture. Children are assessed formatively to ensure that learning meets their needs and ensures excellent progress.

In the Spanish Bilingual Stream, observational assessment in Reception is used to ensure that learning meets their needs; at the end of Reception, children are assessed against assessment statements that have been created by the school in line with the EYFS Development Matters statements. In Year 1, pupils are regularly assessed internally and informally, as part of our good practice. There is also a termly summative assessment used to inform our teaching and measure the stream's impact. Questions in the assessment are based on our curriculum.

Spanish lessons in each stream include:

- learning Spanish vocabulary in an interactive way
- asking and answering questions
- playing games and learning songs
- using language that has been taught in role play situations
- learning about life in Spanish-speaking countries

EYFS

Children spend much of their time in Spanish lessons and lessons in the Spanish Bilingual Stream speaking, listening and interacting. They take part in conversations, question and answer work, songs, as well as responding to a wide range of aural stimuli.

This emphasis on communication, including the importance of language learning in the 'education of the ear', underpins children's capabilities in oracy, which is critical to effective communication as well as a key foundation for literacy. This enables them to learn much about sound patterns of Spanish and to begin to reproduce the language and engage in spoken interaction.

KS1

Children spend much of their time in Spanish lessons and lessons in the Spanish Bilingual Stream speaking, listening and interacting. They take part in conversations, question and answer work, songs, and they respond to a wide range of aural stimuli.

Children in the Spanish Bilingual Stream will gradually be exposed to the written form in KS1, in the form of words and phonemes.

Children with Special Educational Needs and/or English as an Additional Language

As part of our good practice, we adapt teaching to the needs of our learners. This may be through examining Pupils Passports, and working with the Learning Support Coordinator, SENCo and the EAL department. Ongoing assessment for learning allows teachers to ensure that pupil needs are being met.

In the Spanish Bilingual Stream, we differentiate provision and assess the children's Spanish levels to meet their needs. Spanish-speaking teachers and assistants in the stream are integral to supporting the development of children who are both non-native and native Spanish speakers.

Development

The Roche School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all children fulfil their potential

From the Academic Year 2022-23, we aim for Spanish to gradually replace French as the core language taught at the school.

Alongside eventually teaching Spanish as the main Modern Foreign Language, we also aim to roll out the Spanish Bilingual Stream to Year 2. After that, the focus will shift to our Transition to Secondary School programme, although pupils will continue to learn Spanish at a level that suits their needs, as a timetabled subject.

Links to other curriculum areas

Spanish lessons across the school align with our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development Policy, Curriculum Policy and the Single Equalities Policy.

In the Spanish Bilingual Stream, afternoon lessons where applicable are delivered in Spanish and are based on the Early Years Foundation Stage or National Curriculum; this means that there are various links between Spanish and other curriculum areas.

Reference list

British Council. (2017). Languages for the future. Available at:
https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/languages_for_the_future_2017.pdf (Accessed: 8 December 2022).