

**ST. MARY & ST. MARGARET'S CE (AIDED)
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



LANGUAGES POLICY

February 2025

Languages Curriculum Policy

School Values

Our School Values set the ethos in which this policy is grounded:

We believe that St Mary and St Margaret's CE Primary School exists to enable every child to realise his or her potential to the fullest possible extent, whatever his or her particular needs and abilities. We aim to help all children to be the best they can be by 'living life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

To this end, we promote our agreed School Values:

- *Growing as a child of God*
- *Loving learning*
- *Caring*
- *Achieving*
- *Personal development*

Introduction and Rationale

How do we teach languages at St. Mary and St Margaret's?

At St Mary and St Margaret's CE Primary School, we aim to provide a language curriculum (Latin) that stimulates pupils' curiosity and engages them in their learning of a language. At St Mary and St Margaret's we have decided that children will learn Latin.

As children move into Key stage 2, they are introduced to Latin following the Minimus scheme of work, implemented by Classics for All at Oxford University. Our intent for the teaching of Latin is to teach children in a rich, balanced and progressive curriculum, using Latin to support vocabulary development, a deeper understanding of grammatical structures in English and foreign languages and for children to investigate the derivatives of language alongside historical stories.

Through the teaching of Latin we seek to provide pupils with opportunities to make substantial progress in one language. It will provide opportunity for the children to experience both spoken and written language from a different country.

All teaching staff should become familiar with this policy and ensure that their teaching of Latin is in line with its guidance and stipulations.

Why is Latin right for children at St. Mary and St Margaret's?

Enhancing children's vocabulary and promoting a love of reading and language is at the heart of everything we do. Latin is a natural fit for our vision of building knowledge for long term learning in a range of subjects. We teach concepts like 'democracy' and 'monarchy' in history but we need to do even more to help our pupils make meaningful, rich connections between those words. When pupils are making connections between the root or roots of a word they are creating a larger picture of meaning. In doing this, they are making links to the long-term memory. In this way they will know more and remember more.

As a staff we believe that we should be capitalising more on our pupils' interest in and playfulness with big words. We believe that we should be talking to them more about where words they know came from and also the roots of the words, which are usually from Latin and Greek.

Since Latin lies at the root of 60% of English words, studying it has a beneficial impact on development of English vocabulary across a range of subjects – such as science, geography and history – and language skills in general.

Curriculum

We provide learning opportunities that ensure complete coverage of the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum. Our curriculum focuses on enabling children to speak, listen, read and write in a foreign language. Children will be given the opportunities to develop these skills within a range of topics and contexts.

Class teachers should use the medium-term planning to plan lessons that are engaging and ensure progression in the subject. Three half-term topics per year group have an allocated theme that can be used to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of a foreign language in spoken and written form.

Teaching staff consider the individual needs and interests of the children. Our Latin curriculum takes into account the different abilities, experiences and interests of the children whilst also developing an appreciation for the diversity, traditions and cultures which exist around the world.

Latin lessons take place in the classroom, around our school site and through enrichment activities. Latin is taught in a whole-class setting by the teacher with differentiation where required.

Planning And Assessment

It is the responsibility of class teachers to plan lessons using the medium-term planning provided by the subject leader. This medium-term planning ensures coverage of the National Curriculum and progression. Teachers should consider the abilities and needs of their cohort when planning lesson content. Lessons should be interactive and ensure that children are motivated to be the best they can be in the subject of Latin.

We recognise that in all classes children have a wide range of abilities and we seek to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this by:

- differentiating lessons and activities to enable children of all abilities to access them;
- setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty, some children not completing all tasks;
- providing resources to support children to enable them to access lessons and the curriculum;
- using teaching assistants to support children individually or in groups;
- providing specific provision for children with special educational needs.

Teachers should carry out informal assessments as they work through a topic to enable them to make adaptations where necessary or to address misconceptions. Teachers should also ensure their lesson content is challenging and stimulating. The marking of work should be in accordance with the school's Marking and Feedback Policy.

Assessment is in line with the school's policy for assessment. Teachers are expected to assess at the end of each topic against National Curriculum descriptor levels; this enables teachers to track each child's progress. Quizzes help inform teacher judgements at the end of each unit. Assessment records should be passed onto the subject leader for Latin.

The Minimus Scheme –Starting out in Latin: [Minimus - Home](#)

The scheme is divided into chapters that cover different aspects of language with related work to assess the children’s understanding. Children fully immerse in each chapter before moving on and the learning is revisited and revised in each chapter.

School Values and Christian Ethos

The teaching of Latin will be in accordance with the Christian ethos of school. It will provide an opportunity to grow as a child of God and to appreciate diverse customs and values. The learning of a new language will contribute to children’s personal development and pupils’ achievements and progress will be celebrated in school via displays, rewards in line with the school systems and sharing examples of good work and practice. Every child should be provided with the foundations to enjoy learning Latin and should be allowed to develop an inquisitive approach to the subject.

The subject of Latin should contribute to children enjoying learning and play a role in their personal development. The teaching of Latin at St Mary and St Margaret’s CE Primary School will provide children with an experience of learning about a different culture. Our curriculum will celebrate diversity and ensure that the children are curious about other countries, faiths and values. Respect of other countries and cultures will be modelled and passed on to the pupils. We will promote tolerance and help the children develop an understanding of why any form of discrimination is unacceptable. Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated at our school.

Role of the Subject Leader

The role of the coordinator is to ensure continuity and progression in the teaching and learning of Latin.

- Developing good practice in the classroom.
- Monitoring and evaluating resources.
- Monitoring planning and the delivery of the curriculum and assessment.
- Ensure coverage of the National Curriculum.
- Working together with colleagues to raise standards.
- Ensuring that the policy documents remain useful and current.
- Yearly action plan to develop and improve the provision of the subject, with key focuses when appropriate.
- Raise and maintain the profile of Latin in school.

Monitoring of policy

This policy and the relevance and impact of its contents will be reviewed as needed.

Signed **Date**