



Intent

'Communicate like a Linguist'

The Modern Foreign Languages curriculum at St Aloysius' offers a broad and engaging curriculum with a focus on growing in knowledge and reflecting on prior knowledge. Pupils are taught Italian by an 'expert', a native Italian speaker in collaboration with the Italian Consulate General Education department. Teachers focus on how much the children understand and remember, rather than on how much language is covered. Italian teachers will start getting students used to the sounds of the language by playing games, listening to songs and rhymes, looking at books, hunting for words that can be guessed and which are similar to English.

Key knowledge and skills objectives are structured from Year 2 to Year 6 with a focus on building upon prior knowledge and developing our pupils to 'communicate like a linguist'.

Italian topics are introduced to pupils through weekly lessons. Prior knowledge of the topic is elicited and then pupils are given opportunities to practice and deepen their Italian knowledge.

Implementation

This planning is based on the aims, methodologies, activities and materials defined and arranged by the team of teachers appointed by the Education Department of the Italian Consulate in the UK. It complies with the National Curriculum for Primary Languages in KS2 and is strictly related to the protocol of agreement signed between the Italian Education Department of the Italian Consulate General in London and the British schools, sharing the aims of promoting the teaching of Italian as a foreign language and spreading a culture of co-operation and exchange throughout the world.

General Learning Objectives

- Create a positive approach to the Italian language and culture.
- Stimulate awareness, interest and respect for different languages and cultures.
- Provide the basis for further learning of Italian.
- Promote a basic knowledge of grammar.

The lessons will be based on an oral approach to the Italian language where tales, songs, rhymes, chants and games will be used to make learning as enjoyable as possible and to encourage the pupils' participation and a communicative use of the language.

Activities will be focused on:

- Watching, reading and listening to tales and stories
- Memorising vocabulary through flashcards
- Playing games
- Fill in the blanks in short texts or in single sentences
- Matching words to images
- Reordering images, words, sentences, short paragraphs
- Single and multiple choice
- Rewriting words, sentences or simple texts from given patterns
- Highlighting/Deleting words within sentences or simple texts.

Impact

At the end of each topic, the Italian teacher will make formative assessments based on the topic covered. The assessment, which is generally informal and formative, is crucial to assess the degree of assimilation. It will be mainly based on systematic observations of the students when performing and/or playing games. In KS1, students will be observed during the activities as individual, pair or small groups. In KS2, students gradually become more aware of their own learning, by self-assessing and reflection, considering mistakes as stimulus and steps to further learning. Peer and self-assessment, being monitored by the teacher, will aim at encouraging attention and reviewing the individual achievement, while enabling constructive feedback. The assessment process will take into account criteria of inclusion and transparency, timing of exposure to the language, as well as different starting points and efforts to reach goals, in relation to the improvement of the language skills.