



Modern Foreign Languages

At St. Austin's, we believe that learning a language opens doors to the world. It helps pupils to develop confidence, broaden their cultural understanding, and prepare for the future. We want every pupil to enjoy learning another language and to feel proud of their progress. All pupils at St. Austin's learn Spanish from Nursery to Year 6, with Year 5 also having weekly Mandarin lessons taught by a specialist. Learning more than one language helps children develop important skills, preparing them for life in a global world.

Intent

Our aim is for pupils to enjoy learning Spanish and Mandarin in a fun and engaging way. We want them to feel confident in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in another language, helping them communicate with others and understand different cultures. We also integrate digital tools to support their pronunciation and vocabulary development. By learning about different traditions, including Catholic traditions in Spanish-speaking countries, pupils gain an appreciation of faith and its importance worldwide. Environmental topics are also explored, allowing pupils to learn vocabulary and discuss how we can care for our planet in another language.

Implementation

Spanish is taught weekly across all year groups, while Mandarin is introduced in Year 5 by a specialist teacher. Lessons include songs, games, role-play, and interactive activities to make learning engaging and enjoyable. Pupils practise simple conversations, gradually building their confidence in speaking another language. Digital resources and language learning apps help them develop listening skills and improve their pronunciation. Catholic values are woven throughout the language curriculum, with pupils learning prayers in Spanish and exploring religious celebrations in Spanish-speaking countries. Environmental topics are also included, encouraging pupils to use their language skills to discuss sustainability and caring for the world.

Impact

By the time our pupils leave St. Austin's, they will be able to have simple conversations in Spanish, read and understand basic words and sentences, and write short phrases with increasing confidence. They will have developed their ability to speak clearly and accurately, using technology to support their learning. As well as gaining a love of languages, they will have a deeper appreciation of different cultures and traditions, including Catholic traditions in Spanish-speaking countries. Through discussions about global issues, they will understand the importance of looking after the environment and be able to express these ideas in Spanish. Through learning languages, pupils at St. Austin's grow in confidence, curiosity, and respect for others, living out our Gospel Values of inclusion, love, and global responsibility. By the time they leave us, they will be well prepared for secondary school and future opportunities to study and work in different countries, with a strong foundation for learning languages in the years to come.