Standlake CE Primary School

Curriculum Handbook

Modern Foreign Language

(Mandarin)

Curriculum Statement

Intent

At Standlake CE Primary School, we have chosen to teach Mandarin as a modern foreign language. This is because our pupils have the opportunity to build on this learning at Bartholomew School in KS3 and beyond.

Our Mandarin curriculum aims to provide pupils with a meaningful introduction to the Chinese language and culture while fostering curiosity about the wider world. We aim to develop pupils' confidence in learning a modern foreign language by building foundational skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing Mandarin. Through learning Mandarin, pupils are introduced to the Chinese pronunciation system and characters, enabling them to communicate simple ideas with increasing confidence. The curriculum also promotes cultural understanding and respect for diversity. By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils will have developed a secure foundation in Mandarin and a positive attitude towards language learning.

Implementation

Mandarin is delivered in Key Stage 2 by a specialist Mandarin teacher and follows a structured, progressive curriculum designed to build pupils' knowledge and language skills over time. Lessons focus on developing the four key language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing, with a strong emphasis on accurate pronunciation through the use of the Pinyin system.

Pupils are introduced to new vocabulary and language structures through engaging activities such as songs, games, speaking practice and interactive tasks. Teachers model correct pronunciation and sentence patterns, providing regular opportunities for pupils to practise speaking and listening in meaningful contexts. Visual resources, repetition and scaffolding support pupils in recognising and beginning to write simple Chinese characters.

Cultural understanding is embedded throughout the curriculum, allowing pupils to learn about Chinese traditions, festivals and everyday life alongside language learning. As pupils progress through Key Stage 2, they revisit and build upon previously learned vocabulary and structures, enabling them to communicate simple ideas with increasing confidence.

Impact

The impact of the Mandarin curriculum is that pupils develop confidence and enthusiasm for learning a modern foreign language. Over time, pupils build their knowledge of Mandarin vocabulary, pronunciation and basic sentence structures, enabling them to understand and communicate simple ideas in spoken and written Mandarin.

Pupils demonstrate progress through their ability to recognise familiar words and characters, respond to questions, and take part in short conversations. They develop

increasing accuracy in pronunciation through their understanding of the Pinyin system and begin to recognise the structure of Chinese characters.

Pupils also gain a greater awareness and appreciation of Chinese culture, traditions and everyday life, helping them develop respect for cultural diversity and an understanding of the wider world.

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils will have established a secure foundation in Mandarin and will be prepared to continue language learning at secondary school with confidence and curiosity. Their learning is further recognised through preparation for the Youth Chinese Test (YCT) Level 1, providing an opportunity to celebrate their progress and achievement in Mandarin.

Recording

From Year 3 onwards, pupils will have a language book in which their Mandarin lessons are recorded. The work in these books will focus predominantly on developing pupils' reading and writing skills in the language.

Speaking and listening skills are developed through teacher input, modelling and practical rehearsal during lessons. Pupils are given regular opportunities to practise pronunciation, respond to questions and take part in spoken language activities.

Evidence of speaking activities may also be captured through photographs, videos or examples shared on class pages and subject pages on the school website, celebrating pupils' engagement and progress in learning Mandarin.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing through observation, questioning and practical language activities, allowing the teacher to monitor pupils' progress and adapt teaching to support learning.

By Year 6, pupils consolidate their learning and are prepared for the Youth Chinese Test (YCT) Level 1, providing a recognised milestone in their Mandarin learning journey.

Inclusion

Mandarin lessons are designed to be inclusive and accessible for all pupils. Teaching is adapted to meet the needs of all learners, including pupils with SEND, through appropriate scaffolding, differentiated resources and supportive teaching strategies.

Key vocabulary and language structures are regularly revisited to support recall and build confidence. Strategies such as repetition, visual aids, songs, games and practical speaking activities help pupils to engage with and access the learning.

Opportunities are provided for pupils to develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills at an appropriate level. Through adaptive teaching and supportive classroom practice, all pupils are able to

participate in Mandarin lessons and make progress within the language curriculum.

Cultural Capital

The Mandarin curriculum is designed to enrich pupils' cultural capital by providing meaningful opportunities to explore the language, traditions, history, and contemporary life of Chinese-speaking communities around the world. Through the study of Mandarin, pupils develop an appreciation of cultural diversity, global perspectives, and intercultural understanding.

Our curriculum introduces pupils to key aspects of Chinese culture, including festivals, traditions, family life, food, geography, education, and daily routines. These themes enable pupils to make connections between their own experiences and those of others, fostering respect, curiosity, and empathy.

Learning Mandarin also supports pupils' broader cultural development by:

- Developing awareness of one of the most widely spoken languages in the world
- Enhancing understanding of global communication and international connections
- Building confidence in engaging with unfamiliar scripts and sound systems
- Encouraging openness towards different beliefs, values, and ways of life

Through engaging lessons, authentic cultural contexts, and progressive skill development, pupils gain the knowledge, language skills, and cultural awareness needed to become informed, respectful, and globally minded citizens.

Mandarin Long Term Plan – KS2

Year Group	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Yr 3	Greeting in Chinese	The Chinese Writing System	The Chinese Pronunciation System	Chinese Maths	History of Chinese Characters	Review
Yr 4	Festivals & Celebrations	Days of the Week	Age	Family& Pets	Describing family members & pets	Review
Yr 5	Weather	Countries & Nationalities & Languages	Where I live	International Cuisine	Going shopping & to the restaurant	Review
Yr 6	Tell the time	Where are you going	School	Daily Routine	What's in my town	YCT Level 1