

## Our Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum

### A guide for parents

We are delighted that your child is learning Spanish. In an increasingly global world, giving our pupils the gift of a second language is one of the most valuable skills we can provide.

Learning Spanish is much more than memorizing vocabulary; it is about:

- **Global Citizenship:** Opening a window to the world. With over 460 million native speakers, Spanish is the second most-spoken language in the world, making it a powerful tool for communication and cultural understanding across Europe, North, Central, and South America.
- **Cognitive Development:** Research shows that learning a language significantly boosts cognitive skills, improving problem-solving abilities, concentration, and listening skills. It literally helps the brain grow!
- **Cultural Appreciation:** Helping children gain a deeper appreciation for the rich history, diverse traditions, and vibrant cultures of Spanish-speaking countries.

Our primary curriculum provides the foundational knowledge (basic grammar, core vocabulary, and conversational phrases) that will ensure your child feels confident and well-prepared.

Crucially, this is just the beginning! This early exposure to Spanish will provide a smooth and successful transition into secondary school, where they will build significantly upon these skills. Having this solid foundation will give them a head start, enabling them to pursue the language to a higher level as they progress through Key Stage 3 and beyond.

We encourage you to practice a few Spanish words with your child at home—every little bit helps!

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### Your Child's Spanish Learning Journey: A Year-by-Year Guide

#### Year 3: My Immediate World & The Basics 🧐

The foundation year focuses on self-expression and essential communication skills. By the end of this year, your child is becoming a polite, articulate self-introducer.

- **Self-Introduction & Courtesy:** Mastering essential greetings (e.g., *Hola, Buenos días*) and using polite phrases (*Gracias, Por favor*) to start and end simple conversations.
- **The Number Game (0-20):** Counting accurately up to 20 and using these numbers to state their age (*Tengo... años*).
- **Family & Features:** Naming core family members (*madre, padre*) and describing body parts and common pets (*el perro, el gato*).
- **Understanding Gender:** Grasping the concept that Spanish nouns have gender (masculine/feminine), a vital step for future learning.

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#### Year 4: Navigating My Community & Daily Life 📍

The learning expands outward to the local environment and simple routines, enabling basic social interaction and location-based language.

- Directions & Travel: Describing their town (*En mi pueblo hay...*), giving simple directions (*Gira a la derecha*), and saying how they travel (*en coche, a pie*).
- The Art of Shopping: Participating in simple transactions, asking for items politely (*Quisiera...*), and asking how much things cost (*¿Cuánto cuesta?*).
- My Routine: Learning reflexive verbs to describe their daily routine (e.g., *me levanto* - I get up) and discussing their favourite free time activities (*Me gusta jugar al fútbol*).
- The Wider World: Stating where they are from (*Soy de...*) and what language they speak (*Hablo español*), connecting language to geography.

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#### Year 5: Detailed Descriptions & Connecting the Past 📝

The focus shifts to adding detail to descriptions and introducing the concept of time beyond the present, building longer, more complex sentences.

- Detailed Personal Descriptions: Moving beyond simple names to describing what they look like (e.g., hair, eyes) and their personality (*Soy simpático/a*), ensuring adjectives match gender correctly.
- Ordering Like a Local: Confidently role-playing ordering food and drinks (*Quisiera...*) in a café setting and sharing simple opinions about what they eat.
- My Home Life: Describing their family in more detail and using the key phrase *hay* (there is/are) to talk about what's in their house.
- Simple History: Using the past tense to talk about when and where people were born (*Nací...*), connecting their personal history with numbers up to four digits (the year).

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#### Year 6: The Future, Comparisons, and Global Issues 🚀

This is the final consolidation year, where students integrate their skills to make comparisons, discuss time precisely, and talk about future actions, preparing them for secondary school.

- Comparing and Contrasting: Using comparative language (*más grande que...* - bigger than) to compare places in Spain and globally, expressing more nuanced opinions.
- Talking About Time: Mastered telling the time using all intervals (quarter to, half past, five-minute intervals) and applying this to routines, travel, and events.
- Planning the Future: Using the near future tense (*Voy a...* - I am going to...) to talk about their intentions and plans.

- Global Citizenship: Applying their language skills to discuss important environmental issues (*la contaminación, reciclar*), showing they can use Spanish for real-world, meaningful communication.

How to help at home:

Listen to Spanish children's songs or nursery rhymes.

Watch short, age-appropriate Spanish cartoons or YouTube videos.

Read bilingual books together or stories in Spanish with pictures.