



## Ayios Nikolaos Teaching of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy

Review Date: September 2018

Date of Next Review: September 2019

**Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah Baillie**

### 1. Introduction

1.1. In our school we teach Greek as a foreign language to children from FS1 to Year 4 and French to Years 5 and 6 as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons. Firstly, we believe that many children really enjoy the challenge of learning to speak another language. Secondly, we also believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. We also believe that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other languages later in life.

### 2. Aims and objectives

2.1. The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are;

- To foster an interest in learning and other languages;
- To introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- To make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- To help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- To develop their speaking and listening skills;
- To lay the foundations for future study.

### 3. Organisation

3.1. We teach Greek to children in FS1 to year 4 and French to year 5 and 6. A subject specialist usually teaches the subject and class teachers are encouraged to link MFL with other subjects in the curriculum. On a weekly basis the time allocated to each class for MFL is as follows:

- FS1 and FS2 - 20 minutes;
- Year 1 and Year 2 – 25 minutes;
- Year 3 and Year 4 – 35 minutes;
- Year 5 and Year 6 – 50 minutes.

### 4. The Curriculum

4.1. Greek and French are the modern foreign languages that we teach in our school.

4.2. The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in QCA. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- Ask and answer questions;
- Use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- Memorise words,

- Interpret meaning;
- Understand basic grammar;
- Use dictionaries;
- Work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other language;
- Look at life in another culture.

## **5. Teaching and learning style**

- 5.1. We base the teaching on the guidance material in the QCA scheme of work for modern foreign languages. We have adapted this to the context of our school and the abilities of our children.
- 5.2. We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs). We often use puppets and soft toys to demonstrate the foreign language, and we also invite native speakers in the classroom and take children out into the community in order to expose the children to more than one voice in the foreign language. We regularly use mime to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation. We emphasize the listening and speaking skills over the reading and writing skills. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, i.e. We try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

## **6. Host Nation Activities**

The school aims to make the most of its situation in the Cypriot community and every effort is made to develop good links with the local community. The school has links with local Cypriot schools and various activities take place between them.

Some of the host nation activities at Ayios Nikolaos School include:

- Collaboration with the local Cypriot schools on joint curriculum projects;
- Anglo-Cypriot carol service;
- Visits to various places in the local community including the Greek Orthodox Church.