



Languages Policy

Our school community provides a caring, happy and safe environment, which strives to foster a love of life-long learning.

We endeavour to develop each person's academic, physical, moral cultural and spiritual potential based on mutual respect, fairness and honesty.

We want our students to emerge as confident, adaptable, responsible and caring citizens.

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Introduction

The study of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for the students of St. Colmcille's School.

In studying a modern language students develop their communication and literacy skills. They also develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between foreign languages and English.

Learning another language raises awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduces an international dimension to students' learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others.

The study of a foreign language provides a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of studying a Modern Foreign Language are to:

- Foster an interest in learning other languages;
- Introduce student's to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- Stimulate and encourage student's curiosity about language;
- Encourage students to be aware that language has structure and that the structure differs from one language to another
- Help the students develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- Develop their speaking and listening skills;
- Extend language teaching beyond mother tongue learning.

Organisation of Languages at Junior Cycle

French and Spanish are offered as Modern Foreign Languages at Junior Cycle.

Students joining the school in First Year choose which language they would prefer to study.

All students are expected to study a modern language up to at least ordinary level standard at Junior Certificate.

There may be circumstances where a student with special educational needs (resource students) would benefit from withdrawal from the Junior Certificate examination in modern languages. The School believe that it is important that students, regardless of their exemption be exposed to the language even if it be in a limited capacity. Students would therefore remain in the language classroom for at least two lesson/week. They are encouraged to participate in class if and when appropriate. The language teachers retain responsibility for nurturing the student's interest and involvement in the language.

The decision to exempt a student from languages at Junior Cycle is taken only after consultation with:

- Languages Teacher
- Parent/Guardian
- Resource Teacher / Special Needs Department
- Careers Guidance Counsellor

Parents/Guardians and students are made aware of the impact that withdrawing from a language at Junior Cycle will have on their Senior Cycle curriculum choices and their career progression.

Where a student is withdrawn from a language at Junior Cycle the special needs department endeavour to timetable the students resource hours to coincide with the language timetable. However timetabling and resourcing constraints may not always make this possible.

Organisation of Languages in Transition Year

French and Spanish are offered as part of the core in the Transition Year Programme.

The aim of this programme is to consolidate student's language skills and further develop their cultural awareness.

Organisation of Languages at Senior Cycle

French and Spanish are offered as Modern Foreign Languages at Senior Cycle.

It is school policy that students continue to study the language that they sat for their Junior Certificate examination.

Whilst languages at Senior Cycle are taught in mixed ability classes the expectation is that a student who sat the ordinary level examination at Junior Certificate will study the ordinary level course at Leaving Certificate.

There may be circumstances when a student would not study a language in Senior Cycle. If this is the case the students involved are withdrawn from the language classes.

The arrangements made for these students are dependent on the numbers involved and the resources available to the school in any given year. These may include:

- Making the library available to the students for independent study
- Resource support (if applicable to the student)
- Offering an alternative programme

The decision to withdraw from the study of a language at senior cycle has far reaching career implications for the students. Parents/Guardians are invited to meet with the careers guidance counsellor before any decisions are made. When appropriate the special needs department will meet with parents to support them with their son/daughter's subject choices at Leaving Certificate.

Review and Evaluation

As part of its Development Planning St. Colmcille's Community School will monitor, review and evaluate this Policy and all related work and procedure on an ongoing basis to ensure legal compliance and the maintenance of best practices.