

Teaching and Learning

The study of Latin can have multiple academic benefits for the learner. It not only strengthens literacy skills in English and helps children with their grasp of basic grammar and syntax, but also builds their vocabulary. Through the teaching of 'root' words, students are able to 'decode' words in the English language. Since about two thirds of English words are derived from Latin, studying Latin provides invaluable insights into English vocabulary and the structure and meaning of English words, especially of longer and more complicated ones.

Learning these word patterns improves pupils' ability to gain meaning from unfamiliar words and helps them with their reading comprehension. In addition to these benefits, studying Latin provides the foundation for learning other modern foreign languages. This is because in learning Latin, pupils become comfortable with breaking down grammatical structures and parts of speech. Latin is also useful for aiding childrens' understanding of higher level vocabulary in Geography and Science as they study at Secondary level and beyond.

Comprehension : The focus is on reading, understanding and discussing stories and through these, developing an appreciation of classical civilisations. Children will read carefully, show an understanding of words, phrases and simple writing, and be able to write simple sentences from memory themselves.

Communication : Pupils will listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding. They will explore the patterns and sounds of Latin and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words to words in English. Children are also encouraged to ask and answer questions and engage in small conversations in Latin, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures. They will learn to develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases.

Grammatical knowledge : Pupils are introduced to basic Latin grammar such as the gender of nouns, adjectival agreement and verb conjugation. They are encouraged to spot patterns in the language and make links, relating what they learn to their understanding of English grammar and language.

The Fermor Four in Latin

<u>Relevance</u> Students should be able to explain what they have learned in Latin and learn to appreciate different countries, cultures, communities and people. By making comparisons, they gain insight into their own culture and society. Students should be able transfer the skills they learn within Latin to other subject disciplines as well.	<u>Engagement</u> Students should be ready to listen and learn in lessons and during re-enactments or activities. Students can show their engagement in Latin by asking questions, working to make connections to other learning and by continually striving to improve work.
<u>Questioning</u> Students should continually be asking questions throughout Latin learning and should start to make links with their own language and culture, observing similarities and differences.	<u>Articulate</u> As students become more confident in their knowledge of Latin vocabulary and grammar, they should be able to manipulate the language to translate and make simple sentences. Their understanding of English grammar should also deepen and they will be able to make links to words in subjects across the curriculum and in everyday life.

Approaches and Methods

Children learn the language through reading and acting out stories involving familiar characters i.e. the real family and their slaves who live at Vindolanda, the real site of a Roman fort near Hadrian's Wall. This provides a historical context to their learning. They are encouraged to read the Latin story, learning and practising key vocabulary and phrases each lesson to build their knowledge. Pupils consolidate their learning through partner work and games, making links with English vocabulary and grammar as well as manipulating the Latin vocabulary they have learnt to translate and write their own sentences.

Cross Curricular Links

The study of Latin lends itself to a host of cross-curricular links, not just because of the study of grammar and word roots and the links to vocabulary in other subjects. Latin is a highly organized and logical language, which sharpens the mind, cultivates mental alertness, creates keener attention to detail, develops critical thinking, and enhances problem solving abilities. Through our Latin curriculum, pupils also gain appreciation of classical civilisation and this enhances their study of History.

Health & Safety

Care should be taken if re-enacting historical events in school, with careful consideration of props used for such activities.

Inclusion

Language teaching has a multi-sensory approach which appeals to all learners. Visual aids are used to support pupils in understanding words and phrases, with a clear and consistent font type and background colour and colour coding for questions, gender of nouns and other grammatical concepts. Children are encouraged to personalise ways to remember vocabulary and to relate new vocabulary to words they already know. Each lesson starts with a recap on prior learning and there are opportunities for pupils to work with partners or in groups, move around and play games to consolidate learning wherever possible. Word mats are provided to support with the reading of the stories.

Assessment

At the end of each chapter, pupils self-assess their understanding of what they have studied using a selection of 'I can...' statements. They evaluate what they have learned, identifying gaps in their learning and monitoring the strengths in their subject knowledge. Teachers assess using the same statements and monitor progress, as well as modelling how to be a successful learner of Latin using metacognition and self-regulation strategies. As a result, pupils learn what a successful learner of Latin looks like and are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning.