



Let's Focus on.... 1+2 Languages



What are pupils at Oxbang Primary School learning?

- French from Primary 1-7
- Gaelic from Primary 5-7



Why should my child learn other languages?

There is lots of evidence to suggest that learning a second language can improve literacy skills. By comparing features of their first language with those of another language, learners are better able to understand the structure and workings of English. Language learners develop and enhance their skills and strategies for decoding and making meaning from words and these transfer to English. Learners develop flexibility and competence in dealing with language concepts. Other benefits include: improved self confidence, enhanced problem solving, interpersonal and communication skills and increased employability.

Will my child confuse the different languages they learn?

Successful second language learners transfer their knowledge from one language to another. By using cross-linguistic strategies, learning and literacy in both languages are enhanced.

What languages will my child learn and when will they start?

The Scottish Government have created the conditions in which every child will learn two languages in addition to their own mother tongue. The ambition of the 1+2 model is that by 2020, all children will start learning an additional language throughout primary school. Their studies in this language will continue into secondary until the end of S3 with the opportunity to continue into the senior phase if desired. In addition to this they will explore another language from P5-7.

Learning a foreign language is an extremely valuable skill which we aim to teach throughout the school. The language work will be in enough depth to allow learners to go beyond basic words and will encourage them to experiment with the language so they can progress their language skills. At present we teach French across all classes. Gaelic was introduced to P5-7 classes in 2014/15. Children in the upper stages learn some Gaelic language skills as well as learning more about Scottish culture and heritage.

Who will teach my child their second and third languages?

Language learning will be normally be provided by the class teacher or a teacher in the school who has been trained in the additional language(s). Some teachers at Oxbang Primary are already trained in teaching French. Others are currently undertaking training in French and Gaelic language.

How can I support my child?

A positive attitude to other languages will go a long way to keeping your child interested in learning. Here are some tips for supporting your child:

Leading by example

Encourage your child's love of languages by displaying a positive attitude to other languages and cultures.



Languages are all around us

Stimulate your child's curiosity by looking for foreign words on products around the home and in the shops. Ask your child if they can identify different languages and what words they recognise. Turn this into a game and challenge them to work out the ones they don't know.

Learning together

Don't be daunted if you don't know any foreign languages; you can still support your child. Ask them to teach you some of the new vocabulary and phrases they have learned.



Holiday time

Either abroad with local people or in Scotland with visiting tourists, encourage your child to test out their new language skills. Using the language for a real purpose shows children how valuable a skill it is.

Changing mindsets

Discuss the benefits and myths with your child and dispel any prejudices about learning other languages.



Useful Websites

For more information, including case studies featuring language learners in Scottish Primary and Secondary Schools, please visit the section of the SCILT website dedicated to parents and carers:

<http://www.scilt.org.uk/LearnersParents/tabid/1294/Default.aspx>

For more information on 'A 1+2 Approach to Language learning' visit the 1+2 section of the SCILT website:

<http://www.scilt.org.uk/A12ApproachtoLanguageLearning/tabid/1715/Default.aspx>

For more information from Education Scotland about language learning and for links to some basic French and Gaelic vocabulary:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/resources/0to9/a1plus2approachtolanguagelearning/introduction.asp>

A 10 minute guide to phonics published by the Department of Education in England:

<http://networkforlanguageslondon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/10-minute-guide-Phonics.pdf>

