

Our curriculum guide: Latin

Date: September 2023 and reviewed on an on-going basis

Introduction

The National Curriculum requires all schools in England to teach a foreign language to children in Key Stage 2. Sphere Federation schools teach Latin.

This Curriculum Guide sits alongside similar documents for Early Years, Reading, Writing, Maths, Science and others. It supplements what is set out in our Curriculum Statement for foundation subjects.

We want Sphere Federation schools to be happy and healthy places to learn. This core aim permeates our schools and their ethos, whether in the classroom or around and about school. (*At St James' CE Primary, this is expressed with one additional element: 'happy and healthy place to achieve and believe'.*)

The knowledge and skills we are required to teach are set out in the Languages section of The National Curriculum (Department for Education, 2014). We set these out in a sequence of learning (our Long-Term Plan alongside our age-related expectations) with additional or explicit learning, too.



Rationale

'Ancient languages offer students a portal to the past and act as a foundation for learning several other languages. Latin and Greek are worthy of study in their own right, offer advantages of accessibility and facilitate connections across the curriculum as learners explore ancient cultures through, and beyond, language study.'

Ancient languages in primary schools in England: A Literature Review (Department for Education, 2022)

Our Latin curriculum has been designed following consultation with teachers, children, parents/carers and governors. We teach Latin as our foreign language for a range of important reasons, which include...

As well as learning the language, children learn by making meaningful connections with lots of other subjects, not least English grammar and history. Latin is a strong foundation on which to build future learning of modern foreign languages, too.

Much of the English language derives from Latin (or Greek) roots. By broadening children's vocabulary with the knowledge and skills to identify word roots, families and classes, we inspire children to seek out Latin links in their everyday lives.

Latin fosters a curiosity about the origins of our language (and other languages). It better prepares our children for secondary school (each school in Sphere Federation serves a range of secondary settings, all of which teach a range of different languages; most of the modern foreign languages taught at secondary school are Romance languages which have Latin roots).

'There is strong evidence to suggest that where Latin and Greek are given the opportunity to flourish, so do students, from a range of backgrounds and pupils with EAL, SEND and FSM tend to make greater progress than other learners.'

Ancient languages in primary schools in England: A Literature Review (Department for Education, 2022)

The Department for Education document (Ancient languages in primary schools in England: A Literature Review, 2022) sets out various research putting forward the benefits of teaching Latin.

Curriculum structure

Foreign Language (in our case, Latin) is a National Curriculum foundation subject. We teach it each week in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6).

In Sphere Federation schools, teachers work in different phases to deliver the curriculum: Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6. As a result, we operate a two-year rolling programme: Cycle A and Cycle B. This means that some children will encounter learning when in Year 3, for example, and other children when in Year 4. The age-related expectations are the same for both year groups in the phase. Teachers differentiate to meet the needs of all pupils so that by the time they leave a phase, the vast majority have met the expectations. This means that the learning in a Year 3 child's book might look similar to that of a Year 4 child's book, but it is delivered and supported in a different way.

An advantage of a two-year cycle is that children learn some age-related expectations in one year and then secure their learning in the following year in a different context – an opportunity to reinforce, to provide for even greater 'mastery' of the learning; and an opportunity to go deeper with the learning, to use and apply their learning in more situations.

Resources

We use two schemes of learning as the basis for our Latin curriculum: [Maximum Classics 2.0](#) and [Minimus](#).

After consultation with various experts in the field of Classics, such as representatives from [Classics 4 All](#) and [Dr Arlene Holmes-Henderson](#), we chose these two schemes for various reasons:

- they are trusted: they are written by experts in their field
- the learning they provide is appropriate for our setting
- the knowledge and skills children gain has been carefully specified, ordered coherently and built on over time
- the content and style of each resource complements each other: one is more grammatically-based, the other more reading fluency-based.
- the vocabulary and literacy knowledge in both schemes allows children to make meaningful connections and develop understanding of how many languages in our world are connected.

The content of our Latin learning each year is not dependant on previous cycles; all schemes are accessible and children will not be limited by the order of our Latin schemes.

	Cycle A 'odd years': 2023-24, 2025-26...	Cycle B 'even': 2022-23, 2024-25...
Years 3 and 4	Maximum Classics units 1, 2, 3, 4	Minimus: Starting out in Latin chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Years 5 and 6	Maximum Classics units 5, 6, 7, 8	Minimus: Starting out in Latin chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

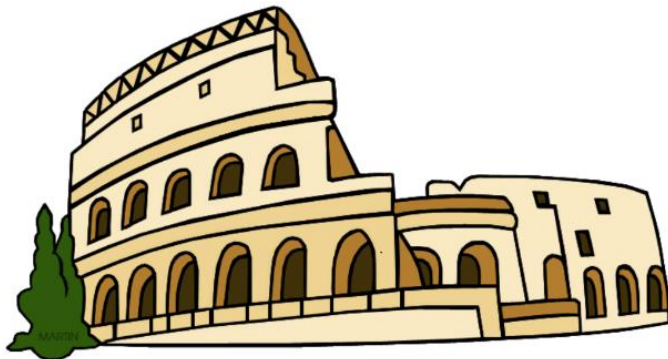
Using both Latin schemes as a basis for our curriculum, we have created and developed our own pupil Latin booklets and adapted learning resources to suit our children. These booklets are used to develop interest and excitement towards our Latin learning in weekly lessons. Teachers are encouraged to facilitate learning discussions by exploring with children and allowing children's curiosity to develop and be heard. Written learning may not always be evidenced, but all pupils can access and engage with the curriculum by having a personal learning booklet.

We have also implemented a dictionary section into our booklets. This allows children to revisit and develop understanding of Latin and English vocabulary across the year (and also across different subjects).

Long-term plans for Latin

Year A (Maximum Classics 2.0)


	core learning	cultural capital (myths and legend)
Years 3, 4	Unit 1 the origins of language	Achilles
	Unit 2 present tense verbs	Orpheus
	Unit 3 verbs and adverbs	Midas
	Unit 4 subject and object nouns	Boudicca
Years 5, 6	Unit 5 simple sentences in Latin	food
	Unit 6 numeral and the verb 'to be'	Hercules
	Unit 7 adjectives and agreement	The Trojan Horse
	Unit 8 prepositions	Hannibal



Year B (Minimus)

	core learning	cultural capital
Years 3, 4	Chapter 1 nouns and noun endings	Vindolanda
	Chapter 2 adjectives	food
	Chapter 3 verbs	work
	Chapter 4 consolidation / Latin roots	Roman school life
	Chapter 5 adverbs	life in Briton
	Chapter 6 more nouns	Eboracum (York)
Years 5, 6	Chapter 7 plural forms of verbs	the Roman army
	Chapter 8 adverbs / whole sentences	Roman health
	Chapter 9 prepositions	the life of a Roman soldier
	Chapter 10 conjunctions	
	Chapter 11 subject and object	death and how people were remembered and honoured
	Chapter 12 consolidation	gods and religion

Age-related expectations: Foreign language - Latin

Years 1 and 2 (expectations for the end of Year 2)	Years 3 and 4 (expectations for the end of Year 4)	Years 5 and 6 (expectations for the end of Year 6)
<p>We don't teach a foreign language in Key Stage 1. This is in-line with the National Curriculum.</p> <p>There are lots of reasons to teach Latin rather than the perhaps more typical choices of Spanish or French. They include:</p> <p>Learning Latin supports learning other languages in the future. About 80% of words in Romance languages such as French, Spanish and Italian come from Latin. In Year 7, your child might learn French, or Spanish, or German perhaps. In most cases, there won't be much choice, and different secondary schools offer different languages for Year 7 students. Latin provides a really useful basis to learn other languages.</p> <p>Latin also helps to enhance your child's understanding in English, too. About two thirds of English words are derived from Latin, so your child will be more confident when they come across a new word in English.</p> 	<p>Knowledge and other learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know at least one reason why it's good to learn a language in addition to English. • I know where some foreign languages are spoken. • I know some strategies that help me to remember key words and phrases. • I know some facts about key figures in the classical world. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can listen to spoken Latin and show understanding. • I can identify some patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and begin to link the spelling, sound and meaning of words. • I can speak in sentences, using increasingly familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures. • I can read and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing. • I can appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in Latin. • I can broaden my vocabulary and develop my ability to understand new words, including through using a dictionary. • I can write some simple phrases from memory. • I can begin to describe people, places, things and actions. • I can understand basic Latin grammar (including feminine and masculine; the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; and how these differ from or are similar to English). 	<p>Knowledge and other learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know at least three reasons why it's good to learn a language in addition to English. • I know the five most widely spoken Romance languages (Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian and Romanian). • I know and use strategies that help me to remember key words and phrases. • I know some facts about everyday life for people living in the Roman Empire. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I can listen attentively to spoken Latin and show understanding by joining in and responding. • I can explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words. • I can speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures. • I can read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing. • I can appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in Latin. • I can broaden my vocabulary and develop my ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary. • I can write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly. • I can describe people, places, things and actions in writing. • I can understand basic Latin grammar (including feminine and masculine; the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English).