



Newlands Junior School
We are Proud

Developing Cultural Capital through Spanish

“It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

It follows that, as teachers, we need to ensure that along with teaching the content of the curriculum, we are enabling children to function as well-informed individuals well after they leave school. It is a huge job, but without the guidance of their teachers, some young people have very little cultural and social input from elsewhere. They could, therefore, miss opportunities that other young people are able to access, which could lead them to make decisions that are less informed than they could be.

Now more than ever, the job of the classroom teacher is of such high importance with regard to filling the gaps that students have. To this end at Newlands Junior School we have planned a curriculum to provide our pupils with an ambitious range of knowledge and opportunities which will open doors and give them confidence in wider society.

Opportunities to develop cultural capital through Spanish teaching involves:

- Offering a varied curriculum so that children have the opportunity to develop their Spanish language skills including speaking, listening, reading and writing in addition to cultural appreciation. The basic structures of the Spanish language are taught and compared to English and other first languages the children may have. Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world (after Mandarin), it is the official language of 31 countries and the third most used language online. Being able to access and use the Spanish language, even at a basic level, opens up opportunities for travel, education and employment all over the world.
- Opportunities are provided for children to listen to native Spanish speakers and access media, music, art and literature from Spanish speaking countries. This helps to broaden a child's knowledge of the world, making them more confident in their future life.
- Children learn about inspirational people from Hispanic heritage who have made significant contributions in their particular field. Through this, children gain an appreciation of their achievements increasing their cultural knowledge and exposing them to role models who have portrayed positive moral attributes and learning powers to be successful in their field.
- Teaching the children about cultural norms, festivals and celebrations, famous people, places and monuments broadens a child's experiences and exposes them to alternative ways of living that they can compare to their own lives.
- Children experience food tasting, Latin and flamenco dancing, Spanish playground games and songs to immerse them in Spanish culture and traditions.