



The Three Pillars of Language Learning

This document will highlight how Language Angels caters for the three pillars of learning ensuring substantial progress in the foreign language by the end of primary phase. The three pillars of language being:

- Phonics
- Vocabulary
- Grammar

There are no prescribed lists or recommendations in the PoS attainment targets for which phonemes, vocabulary or grammar structures to cover so Language Angels has devised their own, automatically weaved into all lessons, units and teaching types. To ensure substantial progress and build solid foundations in language learning before leaving primary phase.

Phonics

We have created a list of phonemes that we envisage all pupils, after at least four years of solid teaching and learning in a foreign language should be able to recognise and recall accurately. These have been picked to ensure pupils can read a piece of unknown text with relative high accuracy but importantly also understand more of what they read. The list consists of the most frequent and useful sounds in the foreign language appropriate to this stage of learning.

The phonemes will be taught explicitly in a lesson and then revisited multiple times through lessons, songs and interactive games. They will also be seen and heard implicitly. There are four sequential and progressive phonics lessons incorporated into all our long-term planning. These should be taught at the start of the year. These four lessons build up pupils' phonetic knowledge, moving from the phoneme on its own, to seeing it in high frequency words and then finally incorporated in context in a longer piece of text. Each year group / teaching type has a particular group of phonemes to focus on. These have been carefully considered by the teaching team at Language Angels and are constantly revisited and revised in the subsequent lessons, including the end of unit revision lesson. As pupils move through the three teaching types they are expected to remember and recall previously learnt phonemes as well as learn the new ones added on. Phonics mats are also available with both a teacher and pupil friendly version available to download. This is to ensure pupils understand exactly what they are learning, when and why. Noting down words on their mat that include that sound. In straight-aged classes the long-term goal is:



- Year 3 Phonics lesson 1
- Year 4 Phonics lesson 2
- Year 5 Phonics lesson 3
- Year 6 Phonics lesson 4

However, when schools use Languages Angels for the first time there will be a different allocation so pupils do not miss any valuable teaching input from missed lessons and mixed aged classes will also find these lessons are grouped. Unit planners will contain this information to guide staff. There will also be phonics revision slides at the end of units and an interactive phonics mat in the resources area to ensure both staff and pupils can recap phonics at the most appropriate time and as often as possible.

Vocabulary

Essential vocabulary to be covered by the end of primary phase has been summarised on a 'Core Vocabulary Mat'. This is the minimum, most useful age-appropriate, non-negotiable language we recommend is taught at this stage of learning to be covered well before leaving primary phase. Beyond this, in lesson 1 of every Language Angels unit there will be a 'Unit Glossary' and 'Picture Vocabulary Sheet' that will contain all of the core language vocabulary that is covered and presented to pupils in that unit. Every unit will recap and consolidate the core vocabulary and then add on more language so that pupils gradually expand their range of language helping them to understand more and start to say and write more. Becoming more complex and sophisticated and their range of vocabulary expands. Starting mostly with noun and determiner in Early Language moving to phrase and text level in Intermediate and finally Progressive. There is no one list of all the vocabulary in the Language Angels schemes as there are different learning pathways. Staff should print out each unit glossary to create their personalised vocabulary list that relates to the SoW for their own school setting. Ideally students should also have a copy of each unit glossary/picture vocabulary list so that they can revisit spellings and meaning to help retain all language taught over primary phase.

Grammar

Grammar is weaved into every unit in across all three teaching types. It is introduced both implicitly and explicitly. Implicitly in the Early Learning units then moving towards a more explicit approach in our Intermediate and then Progressive units. The grammar we choose to teach has been carefully considered by the teaching team at Language Angels and will be age-appropriate and is what we consider will be most useful for pupils at this stage of their language learning journey. Once introduced, any grammar is constantly revisited and recycled in the units that follow. Full grammar documentation is available and this will show the list of grammar that will be covered in the three teaching types, and where it is covered.



All the grammar is already integrated and weaved into all our lessons and recommended planning. The PoS attainment target 12 will be met simply by working and progressing through our units and teaching types and it is not necessary to teach the lessons in the Grammar Explained folder.

The Grammar Explained lessons found in the Extra Teaching area is designed for schools that are able to allocate more time to languages and wish to explore the grammar in more depth with their classes as they have the time to do so. Added to this, when schools are not able to follow the recommended sequence of lessons (cancelled lessons due to trips, staff absence etc) they have the option of teaching a 'one off' grammar lesson.

They are lovely lessons and quite popular as they are very pictorial and the grammar is explained in a very appropriate fashion. The lessons are filled with activities for the children to complete but based solely on the grammar point and not linked to a particular unit. If you intend to follow our recommended planning, everything will be covered automatically through our lessons and units and it will not be necessary to complete these extra lessons.