

Foreign Languages Policy

Royal Cross pupils have a hearing impairment/speech & language impairment which has a significant impact on their language development. Pupils are placed at the school in order to develop a fluent first language, often from very low starting points, through access to an inclusive communication environment and support with individual communication targets.

50% of pupils have EAL at home although they are not fluent in the home language. The priority is to develop fluent communication/language using speech/sign in whatever combination works best for each child. Different modes and amplification equipment is used to ensure pupils fulfil their potential linguistically and can access the curriculum and their personal and social development. Literacy skills in English are essential for academic performance and future independence.

Awareness of different languages and communication methods is helpful in developing an understanding of their own needs as deaf learners, as members of a diverse range of communities and backgrounds and ultimately as citizens in the wider world.

At Royal Cross we use a creative approach to the curriculum with an emphasis on language development. Our policy regarding Foreign Languages is therefore through a cross curricular approach. Pupils develop an appreciation of other languages and cultures through different subject areas such as Art, PE, Geography, History and RE. Topics may have a specific focus which provides opportunities for Foreign Language teaching e.g Holidays or Food. Deaf Studies is also a part of our curriculum and pupils are taught to be aware of how they and others communicate e.g pupils from different countries/cultures in school. Understanding that different spoken and sign languages exist and that people communicate in different ways is an important element of personal and social development.

Foreign Language teaching at Royal Cross always has a focus on practical communication and the introduction of vocabulary in relevant contexts and experiences.