

Myths about language learning

Everybody speaks English.

Reality: Only 6% of the world's population speak English as a first language. 75% of the world's population don't speak any English. English is NOT enough!

Learning languages is particularly difficult.

Reality: Appropriate teaching methods can ensure success in language learning for all learners.

You have to be fluent for languages to be of any use.

Reality: A little language goes a long way, with most employers looking for conversational ability in the language.

Benefits of language learning

- Better understanding of different cultures
- Improved self confidence
- Enhanced ability to build new relationships
- Improved literacy and reading skills
- Enhanced problem solving, interpersonal and communication skills
- Increased employability

The above claims are backed by a substantial body of research. To view some of these sources, visit our website – <http://bit.ly/10K3L1a>



Languages and Curriculum for Excellence

Entitlements

The learning of an additional language usually begins in primary school and in some cases as early as nursery. The implementation of the Scottish Government's 1+2 language learning policy means that schools are now working towards the ambitious goal of every pupil in Scottish schools learning a first additional language from primary 1 and a second language from primary 5.

In secondary schools, it is the entitlement of every young person to learn a language to at least the 3rd level, which for most learners will mean to the end of S3.

In the senior phase, there should be a range of language options at different levels so that all learners can continue to develop their skills and achieve national qualifications.

Learning and Teaching - key features

- Real communication in relevant contexts, supported by ICT
- A renewed emphasis on how languages work, including grammar
- Maximum use of the language in the classroom
- An increased focus on culture and international education
- Language learning across the curriculum



Top 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 words from other languages 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 additional 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.

Whatever you do to support your child, you will be showing them that you value their language learning.

