



**Education
Scotland**
Foghlam Alba

The place of French in Scotland's state schools

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A brief history : part one 1918-1977

- **1918:** *The Education (Scotland) Act* : French = language of diplomacy and culture, critical for international understanding post WW1.
- **1960s/70s :** More emphasis on comprehensive education, *French remains a staple, with more languages added* to enhance learner choice in the curriculum.
- **1970s/80s :** Restructuring of the curriculum begins in S3 and S4 to meet the needs of students of all abilities, leading to the introduction of Standard Grade; *language learning seen as key in a flexible and broader curriculum.*

A brief history : part two 1977- 2024

1977 : No primary languages

S1/2: Compulsory

S3/4: Elective - 'but most able should be encouraged'

1987: No primary languages

S1- S4: Compulsory

1989: Primary languages (MLPS) P6-P7

S1-S4: Compulsory

1993: Primary languages (MLPS)

P6-P7

S1-S2: Compulsory

2008 – 2013: Primary languages

(MLPS) P6-P7

S1-S3: All pupils entitled to learn a language until the end of the BGE (CfE)

From 2021: P1- S3 - ENTITLEMENT

FOR ALL PUPILS TO LEARN AN L2

FOR 10 YEARS (P1-S3) AS WELL AS

THE ENTITLEMENT TO LEARN AN

L3 FOR PART OF THIS TIME

The place of French in the primary school (P1-P7)

Caveats :

- *figures are approximate
- *not every PS submitted data every year
- *combines info for full & partial models of L2

2016/17 - 1380

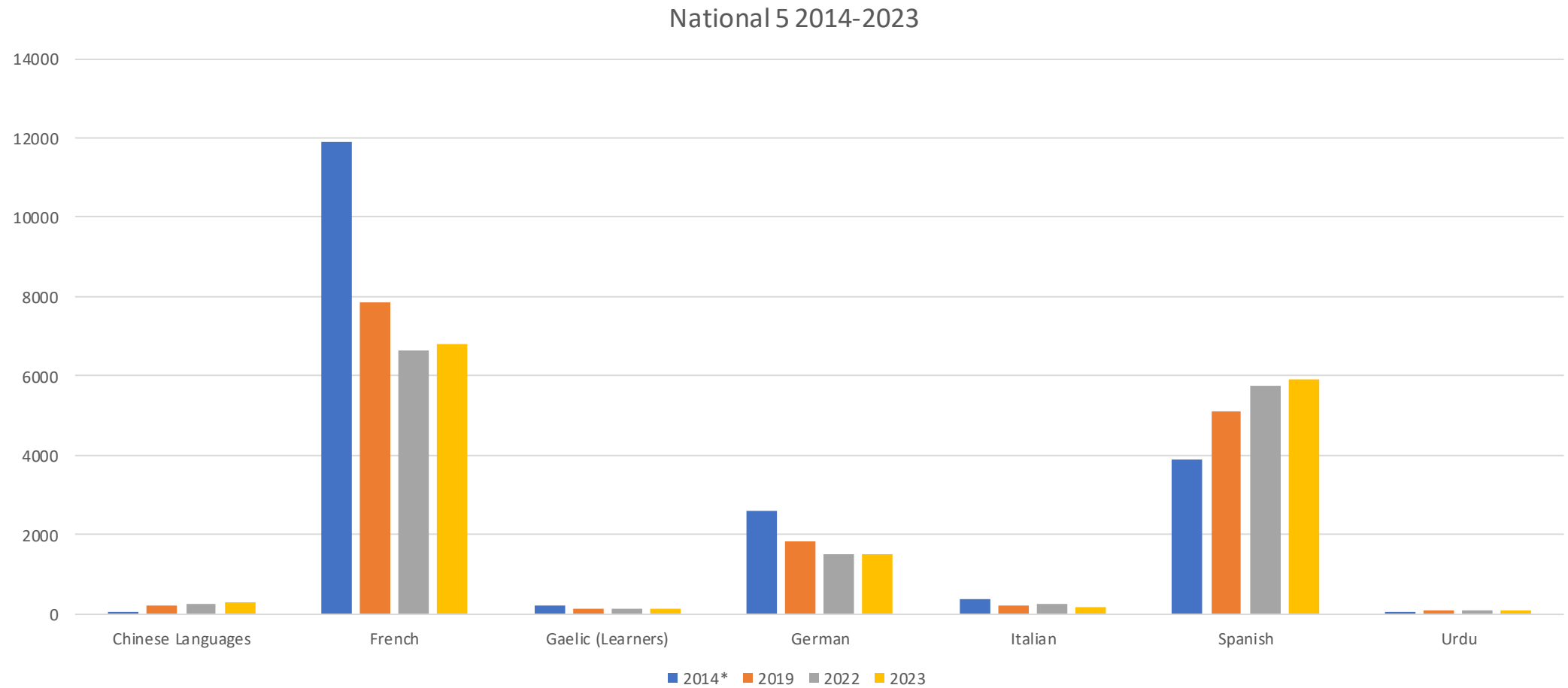
2018/19 - 1400

2021/22 - 1450

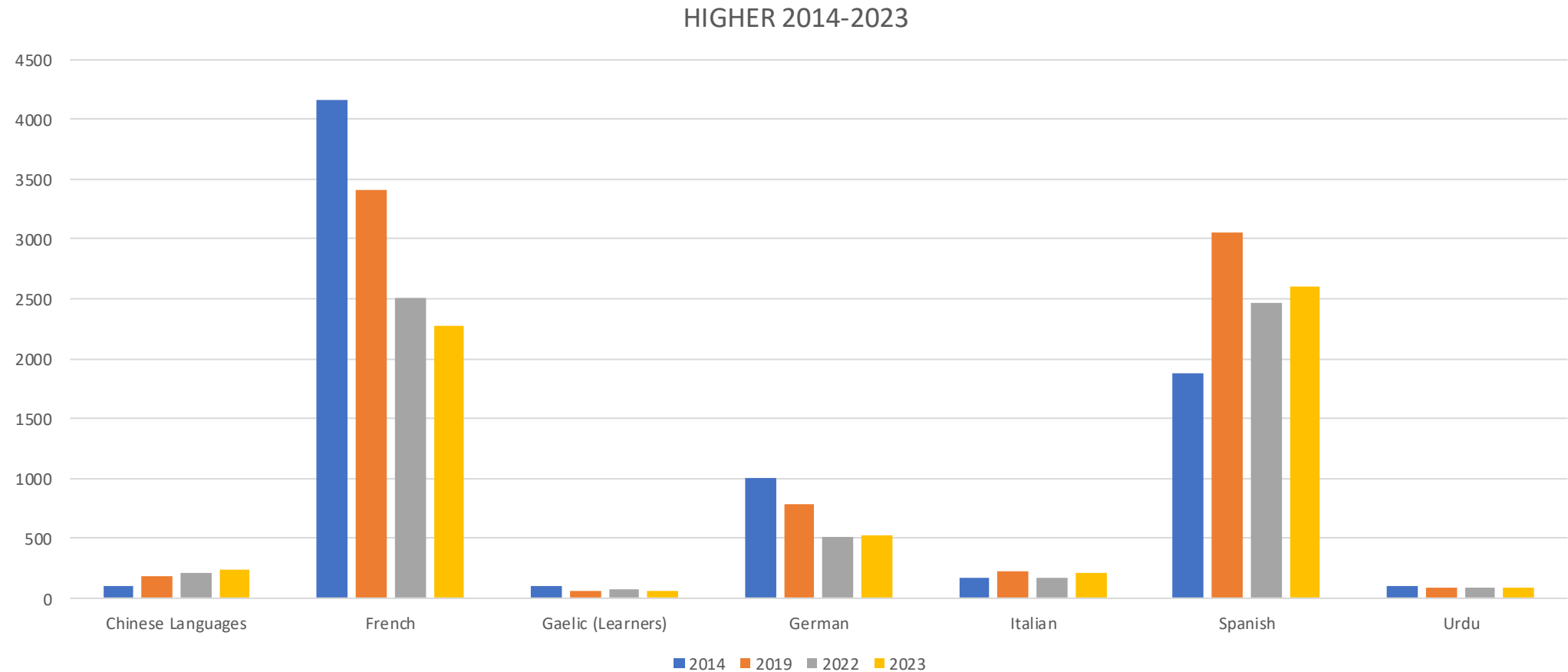
2022/23 - 1270

Source: Scottish Government LA survey stats : 2016 – 2022

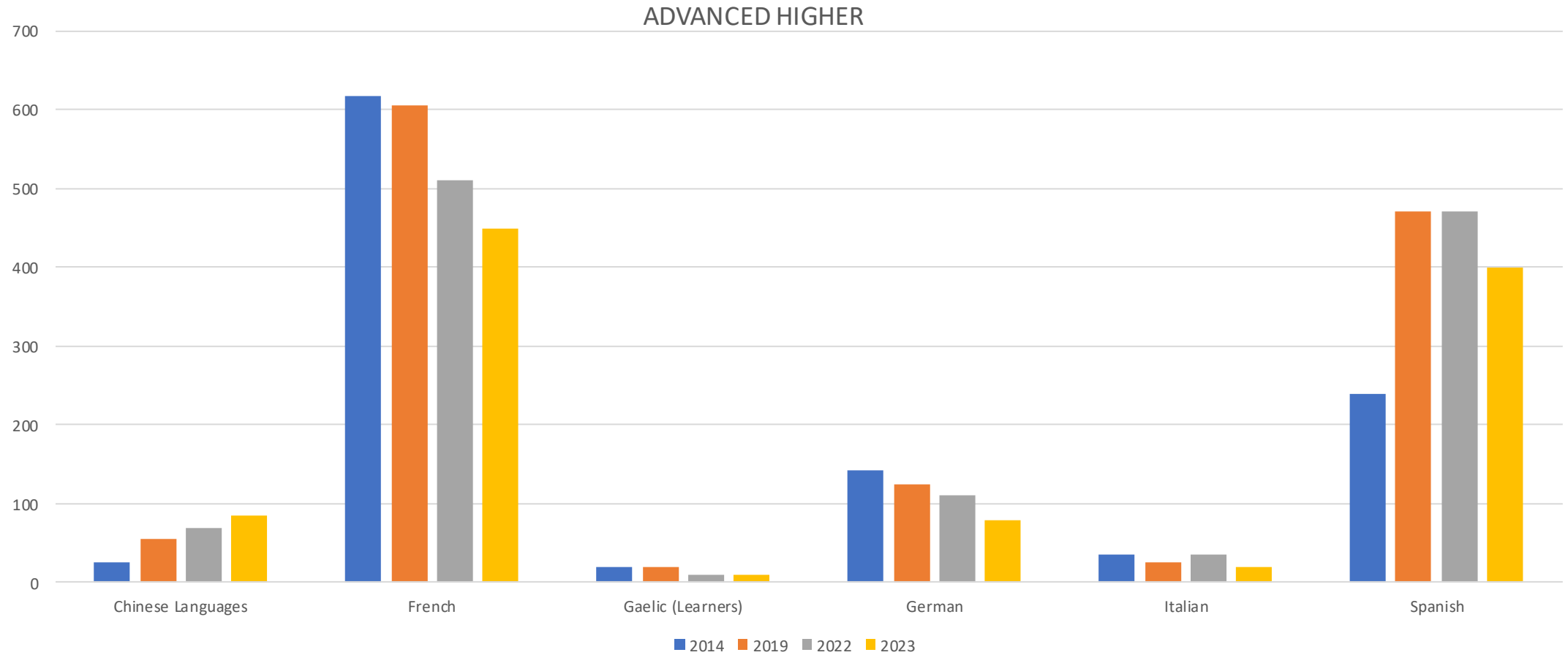
Languages : N5 2014-2023



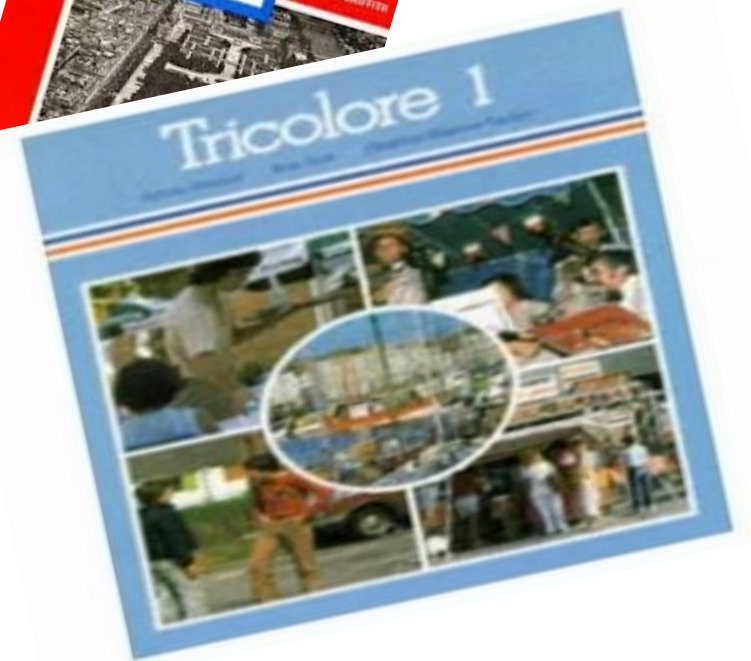
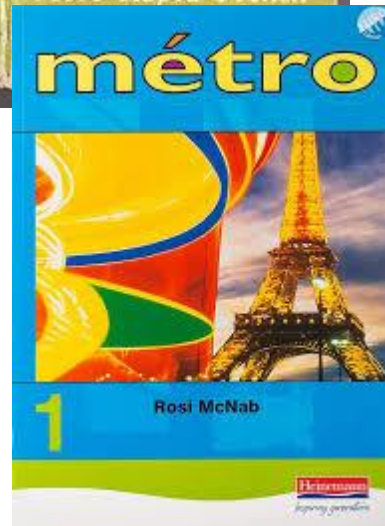
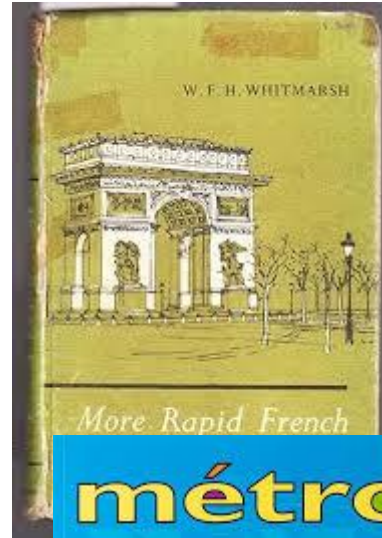
Languages : HIGHER 2014-2023



Languages : ADVANCED HIGHER 2014-2023



Resources : we've come a long way...



Looking inwards : What works to keep learners in languages classrooms?

- Know your learners
- Build on their prior learning - *no 'fresh start' in S1*
- Keep contexts for learning under review – age appropriate & relevant
- Teach grammar. Use the TL as much as possible.
- Blend traditional resources with I.T. based ones
- Connect to the DYW agenda
- Share good practice, share good resources



Pedagogy! Resources!

Listening to real TL sources

Teachers and learners using the TL as the norm

Groupwork

Individual working

Video/YouTube clips – bring the TL to life!

Language assistants

Information-gap activities

Poems

A focus on where language learning can take you

Films/ TV series

High tech, low tech, no tech

Short stories / online texts / novels

Paired speaking –with a purpose

Songs

Real life scenarios –transactional & emergency!

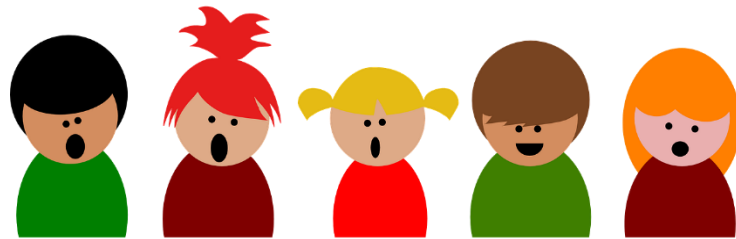
Whole class repetition of new vocabulary

Older language learners working with younger year groups



Looking forwards : thoughts ...?

- *What if all the things we do to "appeal" to young people (in HS) - games, activities, actions, rhymes, chanting etc... are the things that make them think language learning isn't serious and is irrelevant to their future?*



The Auld Alliance – keeping French alive and thriving in Scotland

