

Introducing Year 2 of ALL Connect: DfE funded teacher-led CPD for teachers of languages (at KS2 & 3)



DfE Funding initiative to support languages

Background

In April 2014 the Department for Education (DfE) advertised an initiative for local or regional organisations such as teaching school alliances, other groups of schools, or bodies such as regional groupings of national organisations to bid for funding from the Department, specifically to provide Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in modern foreign languages to primary and/or secondary school teachers. The aim of the initiative is to support the changes in the National Curriculum and improve the quality of teaching in the subject.

Bids were to clearly show how they addressed one or more specific requirements of the new programme of study for languages at Key Stage 2 and / or 3.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-languages-programmes-of-study>

The DfE indicated the following areas of focus were considered a priority:

Key Stage 2

- Speaking skills
- Pronunciation and intonation skills
- Written skills
- Use of basic grammar

Key Stage 3

- Spontaneous speaking skills
- Use and manipulation of grammar
- Extended writing
- Translation skills both from the target language into English and from English into the target language.
- Reading literary texts

The expectation was that bids would focus on the main languages that schools currently teach, i.e. French, German and Spanish to enable the initiative to affect the language learning of the greatest number of pupils and will also aid in transition between primary and secondary phases.

The Association for Language Learning (ALL)

ALL is the national subject association for teachers of languages, with a membership of over 4,000 teachers. ALL has a large number of local member networks operating across the country, offering support, events and networking opportunities to teachers of languages, provided by peers who are active volunteers. See http://www.all-languages.org.uk/community/branches_and_networks.

ALL has played an active role in developing the new National Curriculum, meeting with government and sitting on various committees which have advised on the new curriculum, including the Ministerial Steering Group and Languages Expert Panel.

ALL already has a reputation for delivering CPD to teachers at local and regional level, and its infrastructure supports delivery of training by teachers to fellow teachers.

ALL is particularly interested in the successful transition of learners across Key Stages, and believes that there needs to be mutual understanding of pedagogy, progression and outcomes between KS2 and KS3 teachers to ensure positive change.

ALL's DfE funded Modern Languages initiative – 'ALL Connect'

ALL's bid, known as ALL Connect, was submitted to the DfE in May 2014 and in July 2014 we received confirmation that the bid had been successful. We were able to communicate that our bid was successful from 9 September 2014.

ALL's aim has been to train a minimum of 750 teachers through the ALL Connect initiative (500 at KS2, 250 at KS3).

At every training workshop ALL Connect seeks a minimum of 25 teacher participants.

Structure for the delivery of the ALL Connect languages initiative

- ALL Connect places teachers at the heart of this CPD initiative, as leaders and learners
- Each of the identified regions will have an ALL Connect Regional Centre, headed up by a Regional Co-ordinator who will lead dissemination of ALL Connect across their region; the ALL Connect initiative worked across three regions in the first year: East, North East and North Midlands (Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire)
- In Year 2 of ALL Connect, there will be continued coverage in the North East region with 3 KS2 programmes operating, as well as 4 KS3 programmes in the region. Any participant from the Year 1 programme will be able to join training on the three new modules for KS2: Transition, Transition Toolkit and KS2 Co-ordinator's Handbook
- In Year 2 in the Eastern region, there will be some training events to support transition and to showcase the use of a KS2 Co-ordinator's Handbook, which will be drafted during the academic year. All participants from last year's programme including any new participants will be invited to attend training on the three new modules for KS2: Transition, Transition Toolkit and KS2 Co-ordinator's Handbook
- In Year 2, a number of Lead Teachers from the eastern region from the previous year's programme will become Lead Teacher Advocates. They will develop teacher resources to support the themed modules which underpin the training programme – creating 4 wikis on Grammar (KS2-3), Speaking (KS2-3), Writing & Translation (KS2-3) and Progression & Transition (KS2/3). Additionally they will contribute to the existing Literature wiki housed at <http://ALL-Literature.wikidot.com>
- In Year 2, the North Midlands region will be redefined. Whilst the Regional Co-ordinator will continue to be based in Nottinghamshire, ALL Connect will focus on KS3 for teachers in Leicestershire, as well as offering KS2 & KS3 training to Northamptonshire-based teachers
- In Year 2, the Regional Co-ordinator in the North East and North Midlands regions will select ALL Connect local centres and local Lead Teachers in areas which form part of their region. They will train the local Lead Teachers to deliver ALL Connect training modules. In turn, local Lead Teachers will cascade this training to other teachers from the identified local area
- In Year 2, there will be two KS3 ALL Connect training centres operating in two new areas in Yorkshire. These will be facilitated by local Lead Teachers and offered in Bradford and Leeds respectively. These Lead Teachers will be supported by a

Regional Co-ordinator, who has prior experience of delivering the KS3 programme (having run a full cycle of ALL Connect training at KS3 last year as a Lead Teacher, and supported a teacher delivering the KS2 programme, last year)

- Local Lead Teachers will encourage local teachers to participate in ALL Connect training workshops. They will particularly target hard-to-reach schools (identified from national data), primary schools where language teaching is not yet well established (identified through local knowledge); and schools with good practice which can share ideas and experience (identified through local knowledge including Teaching Alliance Schools and independent schools)
- It is anticipated that ALL Connect training workshops will run at least once every half term over the course of the academic year during Year 2 of the programme
- At an ALL Connect local centre, the Lead Teacher will run a two-hour twilight session per ALL Connect module, in which they will train other teachers from their local area
- There will be no charge to teachers attending the ALL Connect training module workshops. Additionally there will be no charge to access and complete follow-up online modules
- After each face to face training workshop, local Lead Teachers will prompt trainees to complete online follow-up modules
- Local Lead Teachers will lead on the dissemination of ALL Connect in their local area, and link with the ALL Connect Regional Co-ordinator, who will support the initiative regionally and keep in contact with Lead Teachers across their region
- Local Lead Teachers will offer follow-up support for participants, tracking progress and providing advice
- There will be free/low cost regional activities run by ALL's local networks which are part of its core function and which will operate outside of the ALL Connect initiative
- In Year 2, the Transition Toolkit and the KS2 Co-ordinator's Handbook will be launched at Language World Conference, 11-12 March 2016, at Dunchurch Park in Rugby. For more details on this conference please visit: www.language-world.co.uk.

Outline of content

- ALL has commissioned primary, secondary and cross-phase expert writers to create the content of the training modules. All of the training modules are open access and can be viewed by any teacher via a blog. The blog contains each module as well as the supporting online follow-up sessions which accompany each taught session. To access the blog visit <https://allconnectblog.wordpress.com>
- ALL has quality assured training materials and will continue to quality assure the two new modules for KS2 and the supporting transition toolkit and KS2 Co-ordinator's Handbook
- ALL will continue in Year 2 of the programme to use a training model which can be described as 'blended learning', with local face to face training for teachers and follow-up online modules
- ALL Connect's training presents individual themes, but also a coherent whole. To support transition, the KS2 training modules have informed resource development at KS3
- In the training materials the languages used for exemplification are French, German and Spanish. (Guidance and pedagogical approaches could however be adapted to the teaching of any language)
- There will be seven modules in the Year 2 **KS2** training programme, delivered in the following order: 1. Grammar, 2. Speaking, 3. Writing, 4. Progression, 5. Transition, 6. Transition Toolkit, 7. KS2 Co-ordinator's Handbook;
- There are five modules in the **KS3** training programme, delivered in the following order: 1. Literature, 2. Spontaneous Speaking, 3. Grammar, 4. Translation skills, 5. Extended writing
- Secondary teachers will be encouraged to participate in KS2 sessions to enable understanding of primary practice and build coherent, stimulating KS3 curricula that provide well-designed progression from KS2.

Measuring impact

- Regional Co-ordinators and local Lead Teachers will collect statistical data (to be recorded by the ALL Connect management team). Data will include numbers of teachers taking part and the geographical coverage of the programme in their area;
- Teacher participants will be asked to complete a short reflective action plan once they have completed a module in full;
- Teachers who have participated in the ALL Connect training will be asked how they have shared their knowledge;
- Success will be measured through quantitative and qualitative evidence, in terms of levels of participation, levels of satisfaction with the mode and content of the training and the impact on practice in schools;
- ALL will appoint an experienced educationalist to carry out an evaluation to judge the impact and success of the ALL Connect initiative.

What else can I learn about the ALL Connect initiative?

ALL is the leading body of a consortium, and is responsible for the ALL Connect initiative. The Regional Co-ordinators described in this document are from organisations which have agreed to work in partnership with ALL to support the initiative.

Supporting the Eastern region, the partner organisation is [Comberton Village College](#) (an 11-18 academy of 1750 pupils in Cambridgeshire, and part of the Comberton Academy Trust comprising four secondary schools).

In the North East, the partner organisation is [The North Leadership Centre](#), part of the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University (which houses Network for Languages North East and is co-ordinating the North East Teaching Schools Partnership).

In the North Midlands the partner organisation is [Network for Languages East Midlands](#), a specialist centre within the School of Arts & Humanities and School of Education at Nottingham Trent University.

In Yorkshire, the partner organisation is [King Edward VII School](#), a former specialist Language College and long-term partner and CPD centre for the Yorkshire Branch of ALL.

Contact information

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Interested in finding out more about the work of ALL and how it supports the language teaching community across sectors?

Please visit our website www.all-languages.org.uk, contact us on 0116 229 7600, or email info@all-languages.org.uk