

The National Curriculum in England has a statutory requirement for pupils in maintained schools to learn a foreign language throughout key stage 2 (c7-11 years old) and key stage 3 (c11-14 years old).

Non-maintained schools which are not required to deliver the National Curriculum (Independent schools, Academies, Free Schools ..) are expected by OfSTED to offer a curriculum of equal or greater challenge to pupils. This implies that they should also be offering the challenges of learning a language.

The National Curriculum documentation is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-languages-programmes-of-study/national-curriculum-in-england-languages-programmes-of-study>

The main points of interest to teachers are covered in the Programme of Study, which is very succinct.

It begins with the Purpose of Study:

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.

and Aims :

The national curriculum for languages aims to ensure that all pupils:

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied

followed by Subject Content for key stage 2 , and then key stage 3, presented as bullet points.

Further guidance for teachers of Chinese languages interested in the Curriculum and related matters can be found here :

<https://www.all-languages.org.uk/primary-2/guidance/> and here:

<https://www.all-languages.org.uk/secondary-old/guidance-secondary/>

or by contacting [info@ALL-languages.org.uk](mailto:info@ALL-languages.org.uk)