

Background to the ALL Creativity SIG

The MFL Ofsted review 2021 and the recent related evidence-informed practice in Modern Foreign Languages have emphasised the importance of developing phonics, vocabulary and grammar as the 'three pillars' of language learning in England. The National Curriculum also reminds educators of the importance of culture in languages learning as a vector for 'liberation from insularity' (p. 1).

The debate on how we bring culture and authentic resources in the language classroom has grown in recent years, especially following the reforms to GCSE qualifications and the emphasis on high frequency vocabulary.

As allocated time for languages lessons reduce in school timetables, there is often a need to prioritise the 3 pillars content over culture at the expense of developing cultural capital and creative skills such as fluency, literacy, problem-solving and critical thinking through literature, songs and other authentic media.

With the growing importance of developing an inclusive and anti-racist curriculum, there are missed opportunities to explore these through authentic resources such as poetry, fiction, non-fiction texts, songs or films.