

5th November 2025

**PRESS RELEASE on the publication of the
final report of the Curriculum and Assessment Review Panel**

The Association for Language Learning (ALL) welcomes the publication of the Curriculum and Assessment Review Panel's final report and the Government's commitment to a rich, broad and innovative curriculum.

Languages alongside the arts must be an integral feature of this vision. Therefore, we welcome a continued commitment to the study of languages at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. We are though concerned that the removal of the EBacc performance measure could negatively impact GCSE language uptake.

The panel's recommendation for a clearer defined content for Key Stage 2 (in French, German and Spanish) addresses feedback from our members. Defined vocabulary lists alongside intercultural capital can aid the planning and delivery of engaging language lessons, guide primary school colleagues and support the transition into Key Stage 3. Without losing the breadth and experience in the current Programme of Study, such lists must be interwoven with intercultural understanding therefore designed to support – not constrain – creativity, innovation and global understanding.

While there is a recognition in the report that these changes will require resource development, more consideration will need to be given to upskilling initiatives for our primary colleagues, in particular those non-specialists who will be paramount in building a firm foundation of language learning and intercultural understanding.

We welcome that the Government has taken up some of our consultation ideas into their response and we welcome

- The decision not to review the new GCSE in French, German and Spanish (first assessed in June 2026)
- The exploration of alternative qualifications, such as a new flexible stepped language qualification
- Continued funding for the National Consortium for Languages Education
- The Government's commitment to exploring issues and solutions concerning the language learner pipeline from GCSE to A-level and beyond in collaboration with relevant stakeholders
- Support for schools and language teachers in using AI and Edtech to enhance language learning

While we understand the rationale for removing the EBacc performance measure and acknowledge that the targets set by the previous Government regarding language uptake have not been met, ALL is concerned that the removal of the EBacc may have a detrimental impact on language uptake and access to languages on the curriculum therefore widen the divide, as raised at consultation and follow-up meetings. We therefore welcome the forthcoming consultation on reviewing Progress 8, and urge that it protects and further enhances access to language learning and take-up.

On cross-curricular matters, the Association for Language Learning welcomes

- the commitment to an inclusive curriculum that aims high for all learners
- the proposed reduction of GCSE exam time
- the cross-curricular elements of climate, digital and finance education.

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Association for Language Learning

The Association for Language Learning (ALL) is an independent registered charity and the UK's major subject association for those involved in the teaching of foreign languages at all levels.

Media enquiries

Any media enquiries on this subject should be directed to info@all-languages.org.uk or the chair of the management board, Professor René Koglbauer-Franklin, rene.koglbauer@all-languages.org.uk.