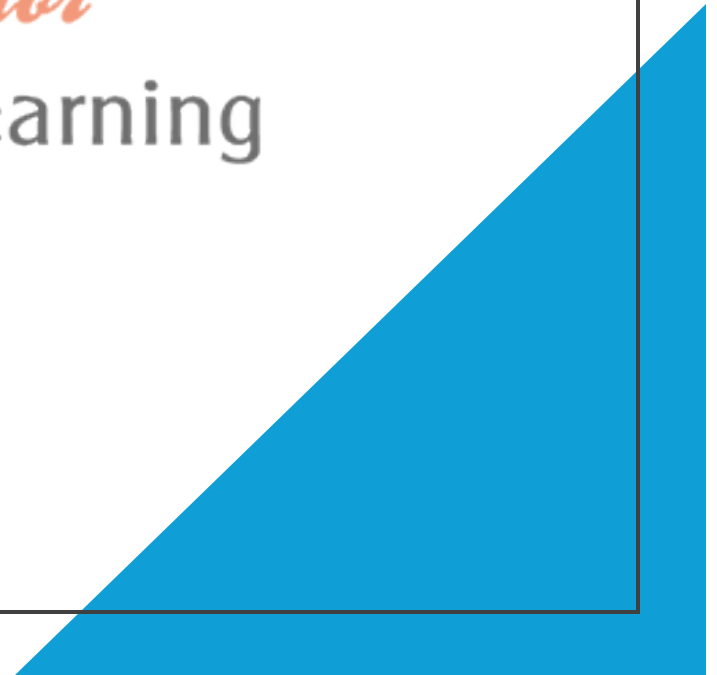


Welcome!

Primary Decolonising the Curriculum
Special Interest Group

Thursday 5th March 2026

6-7pm Zoom



- Who are we?

What does 'decolonising' the language curriculum do?

- It supports language teachers to leave behind the Eurocentrism that we have been taught
- The west is not the centre of the world and superior to all other cultures

What are our objectives?

- Sharing resources together to explore with Primary language classroom pupils.
- Opportunity to look at countries the class population are connected with.

What have we been up to?

- Co-authoring an article on curating a bespoke classroom library
- Presenting an Linguascope webinar about using authentic and culturally rich storybooks

[Language Lab podcast Amy Lennon – landed today!](#)





Today's meeting

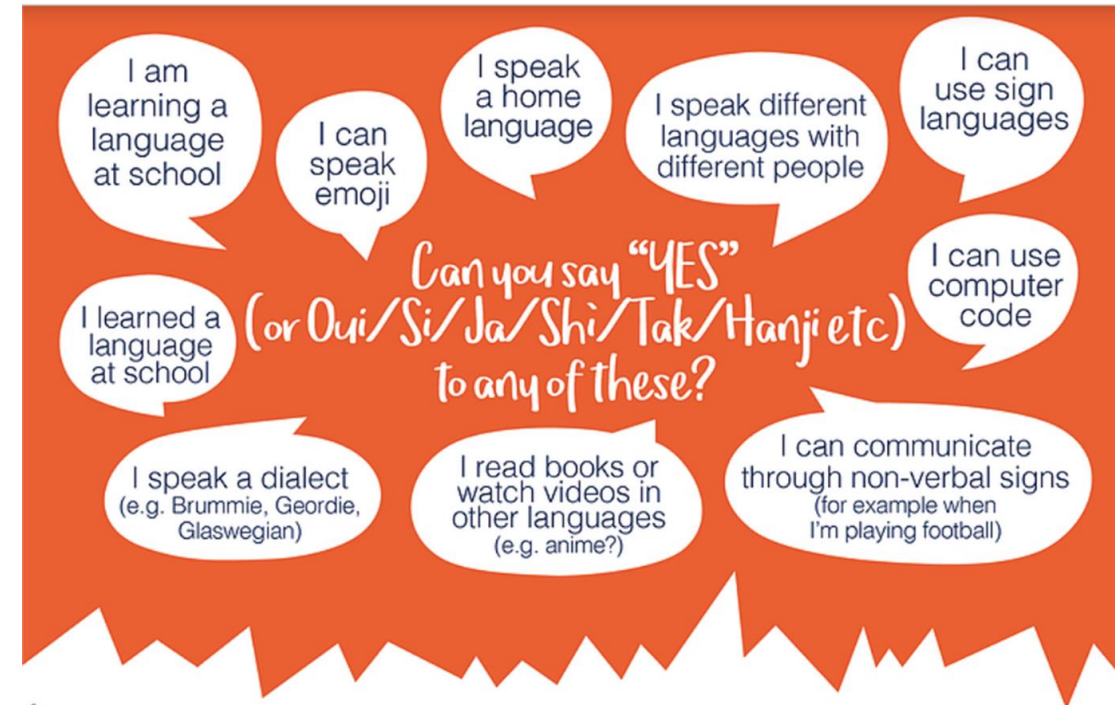
- A rare opportunity to listen to the inspirational Neela Doležalová, a Maths specialist, and creator and presenter of the recent, fantastic '1000 words for belonging' podcast and project, who shows us how engagement with multilingual arts projects connect teaching and learning with the “interculturalness” of our learners.
- Our theme is on a language-centred classroom where students' languages motivates our planning, what we say to them and how we acknowledge their background in the classroom

Agenda

- Creating a child centred classroom through language
- PSHE and ML working together
- Plurilingualism
- Guest speaker: Neela Doležalová
- Q+A/discussion/reflections
- Close

A language-centred classroom is a child-centred classroom

- Why is language important in every classroom?
- What is 'language'?
- Do we need to broaden our definition?
- Will this help to dismantle the hierarchy?



THEN YOU ARE MULTILINGUAL

<https://www.wamcam.org>

ML and PSHE - the 'unlikely' partners

- How can the two complement each other?
- How can we transfer principles from the language classroom into PSHE, vice versa and even beyond the classroom?
- Feeling 'uncomfortable' and why it's important



Activities

- Circle time: 'In our class, we speak...'
- Tell me about your name
- Language portraits

Language portraits

<https://www.multilingualism-in-schools.net/language-portraits/>

What is a Language Portrait?

- A form of expressing identity
- Child-led
- Multimodal (drawing and explanation)
- Way to value multilingualism and diversity, begin dialogues with children



00:00:48

Plurilingualism and pluriculturalism

- The CEFR distinguishes between plurilingualism and multilingualism. In the same way it distinguishes between multiculturalism and pluriculturalism. This distinction aims to facilitate understanding of two very different views of linguistic and cultural diversity. Multilingualism/multiculturalism considers languages and cultures as separate and somehow static entities that co-exist in societies or individuals.
- Plurilingualism and pluriculturalism aim to capture the holistic nature of individual language users/learners linguistic and cultural repertoires. Learners/users are seen as social agents who draw upon all sorts of resources in their linguistic and cultural repertoires and further develop these resources in their trajectories. Plurilingualism/pluriculturalism stresses the dynamic use of multiple languages/varieties and cultural knowledge, awareness and/or experience in social situations.
- Both plurilingualism and pluriculturalism focus on interconnectedness of different languages and cultures rather than on their differences and stress the importance of evolving profiles that value even the most partial competences in and awareness of languages and cultures.
- <https://player.vimeo.com/video/862537649>

Neela Doležalová

- *Neela Doležalová is a writer, teacher and creative producer based in East London. She has spent over 20 years working within theatre, education and community arts. Neela has taught maths, economics and PSHE at secondary level, and currently teaches part-time in a Sixth Form in Lambeth. 1000 Words for Belonging is her first podcast.*



Join us to share the differences you are making!

- Send us an email:
- Alennon621@gmail.com
- darnelle@darnelleconstant.co.uk
- Website: <https://www.all-languages.org.uk/about/community/special-interest-groups/de-colonising-the-curriculum/>

References

- Neela's work: www.the-space-between.org
- <https://www.the-space-between.org/1000wordspodcast>
- <https://player.vimeo.com/video/862537649>
- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/plurilingualism-and-pluriculturalism>
- Sabine Little: <https://www.multilingualism-in-schools.net/weaving-words-of-welcome/>
- <https://www.wamcam.org>
- Language portraits: <https://www.multilingualism-in-schools.net/language-portraits/>



Thank you!