

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

27 AUGUST 2015

Report by Director of Education

PROGRESS REPORT ON LANGUAGE LEARNING: A 1+ 2 APPROACH

PURPOSE

1. To provide an update on, and seek continued elected member approval for, the policy on Language Learning in East Renfrewshire based on A 1+2 Approach (Appendix 1).

RECOMMENDATION

2. Education Committee is asked to:
- a) approve the continued implementation of the policy on Language Learning in East Renfrewshire based on A 1+2 Approach; and,
 - b) instruct the Director of Education to continue to progress the policy.

BACKGROUND

3. East Renfrewshire' schools have implemented a progressive and cohesive approach to learning a modern language since 2001-02, when French was introduced to all prefive and primary schools.

4. The Scottish Government's Language Working Group published a report and recommendations in May 2012. The report described a framework for language learning in Scotland based on the mother tongue plus 2 additional languages – a model recommended by the European Union and adopted in many countries in Europe and beyond.

5. The national recommendations contained within the Scottish Government's report which were the focus of work to take this forward in East Renfrewshire schools are:

- Children should be offered access to an additional language from Primary 1 (L2);
- A second additional language (L3) should be introduced no later than Primary 5;
- There should be regular planned exposure to L2 and L3;
- There should be articulation and progression from primary to secondary, particularly in L2;
- Language learning should be recognised as an entitlement for all young people to the end of their broad general education in S3; and,
- Schools should provide opportunities for pupils in the senior phase to study more than one modern language to the level of a National Qualification.

6. During school session 2012-13 the Quality Improvement Team reviewed the quality of learning experiences in Modern Languages in East Renfrewshire's schools. The review

made a number of recommendations to be taken forward by the authority, clusters and individual schools.

7. In August 2013 a working group was established to consider the recommendations of the Scottish Government and the Council-wide review. In January 2014, Education Committee approved the draft policy produced by the group on Language Learning in East Renfrewshire based on A 1+2 Approach.

8. The Council has been asked by Education Scotland on behalf of ADES, the Scottish Government and COSLA, all of which are national partners committed to helping 1+2 succeed, for an update on progress in implementing the national policy. A template (Appendix 1) has been provided for this.

REPORT

9. During school session 2014-15, Year 1 of the policy was implemented across all East Renfrewshire schools; this included the appointments of a seconded Modern Languages Development Officer and a full time teacher of Mandarin, preparation of resources, staff training and the deployment of Foreign Language Assistants and seconded Chinese teachers.

10. A full evaluation of Year 1 was carried out in June 2015; this included and considered feedback from staff and pupils.

11. The policy has progressed very well during Year 1 and all planned targets have been overtaken. Evaluations carried out with staff and pupils have been very positive about the resources being used and the balance between language learning and cultural awareness. Children have been enthusiastic about the opportunities to learn new languages and skills and staff confidence has increased in delivering new aspects of the curriculum. Boys in particular have enjoyed learning Mandarin.

12. The deployment of Foreign Language Assistants across Primary schools has enhanced the programme and pupils, and staff, have valued the input of a native speaker.

13. A rolling programme of training in French has also been offered to primary staff which has impacted positively on staff confidence and skills development.

Comments from teachers and pupils include –

'Pupils have been completely engrossed in the language learning and are keen to demonstrate their new knowledge in conversations' (P5 Teacher Carolside PS)

'Learning new languages really helps you when applying for jobs in the future' (Crookfur PS pupil)

'I have really enjoyed learning about a different culture' (St Joseph's PS pupil)

14. The impact of the action plan addressing the recommendations from the 2012–13 Modern Languages review will be evaluated during school session 2015–16.

15. The department and schools have continued to be ambitious in the implementation of the policy and have explored opportunities to develop further the plan approved by Committee in January 2014. As such we have been able to expand or are in the process of planning to expand the languages on offer in three school clusters:

- Mearns Castle French, Mandarin and now Spanish
- Williamwood French, German, Mandarin and now Portuguese
- St. Ninian's French, Spanish, Mandarin and now Arabic

16. Wishing to grow the ambition of the policy and further enhance the employability prospects for all East Renfrewshire's young people, the department and schools will continue to explore where there are further opportunities, including funding, to expand on current provision in other school clusters.

CONSULTATION

17. While consultation on the policy was undertaken in 2013-14, some of the key actions for Year 2 have been determined through evaluation of Year 1, for example, modification of some of the teaching materials and consultation between the Director and Head Teachers.

FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY IMPLICATIONS

18. The Scottish Government is committed to providing annual funding to support implementation of 1+2 Language Learning. East Renfrewshire's share of the national funding was £115,000 in 2014-2015 and is £167,000 for 2015-2016. This funding has been used to fund the seconded post, provision of Modern Languages teaching staff and Foreign Language Assistants.

RECOMMENDATION

19. Education Committee is asked to:

- a) approve the continued implementation of the policy on Language Learning in East Renfrewshire based on a 1+2 Approach; and,
- b) instruct the Director of Education to continue to progress the policy.

Mhairi Shaw
Director of Education
August 2015

Convener Contact Details

Councillor E Green, Convener for Education and Equalities
Councillor, P O'Kane, Vice Convener for Education and Equalities

Tel: Home 01505 850455
Tel: Mobile 07718 697115

Report Author

Mark Ratter, Head of Education Services (Quality Improvement and Performance)

Tel: 0141 577 3216

Mhairi.shaw@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Background Papers

Language Learning in East Renfrewshire – A 1+2 Approach
Scottish Government Progress Report

	schools, with the introduction of Arabic planned in another secondary school	Session 2015-16	
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Table 2 – Progress report on 1+2 implementation

Areas you may wish to cover in this table could include for example: leadership, cluster planning, training, use of resources, awareness raising, partnership links, evaluative activities, any challenges or barriers.

Action	Time period	Key achievements	Red/ Amber/ Green status
Progress report 2014-2015			
CLPL training for L2 (Beginner's French) redesigned & delivered	Aug 2014 – June 2015	Training for early years & primary staff delivered. 69 teachers have completed training.	Green
Development of GLOW site to support CLPL French training	Aug 2014 - June 2015	Site developed and accessed by teachers.	Green
CLPL training for L3 (Beginner's Spanish) organised.	Jan – April 2015	Training delivered to 25 teachers.	Green
Organisation and development of teaching resources for L3	Jan – Sept 2014	Pupil workbooks, teachers' guides and extra teaching resources developed for all L3 languages (Spanish, Italian & Mandarin)	Green
Modern Languages GLOW site developed. L3 resources easily accessible on GLOW. Sharing of resources for L2 & L3 through GLOW.	Sept 2014 – June 2015	All L3 resources available on GLOW. Some resources for L2 (French) also available.	Green
Filming of teaching videos to support teachers' delivery of L3	Jan – Dec 2014	Teaching videos for L3 languages (Spanish, Italian & Mandarin) completed and uploaded to East Renfrewshire's You Tube channel	Green
First delivery of L3 to P5, P6 & P7 pupils in all	Oct 2014 – June 2015	L3 successfully delivered in all 22 primary schools. In session 2014/15 all P5, P6 & P7 pupils	Green

22 primary schools, using courses developed.		completed broadly similar course.	
Evaluate programme of L3 in session 2014/15	May – June 2015	Evaluation of all 3 languages completed. Feedback from staff and pupils very positive.	Green
Organise subscription to “High Five French” to support embedding of L2 in all primaries	Aug – Dec 2015	All 22 primary schools have subscription to resource.	Green

Table 3 - Next Steps on 1+2 implementation

Action	Time period	Key achievements	Red/ Amber/ Green status
Next steps 2015-16			
Organise and deliver further delivery of CLPL for L2 (French)	Aug 2015 – June 2016		Amber
Create & deliver “Next Steps” CLPL course for L2 (French)	Aug 2015 – June 2016		Amber
Organise and deliver further L3 (Spanish) training.	Aug 2015 – June 2016		Amber
Organise and deliver L3 (Italian) CLPL training.	Aug 2015 – June 2016		Amber
Organise L3 (Mandarin) CLPL training)	Aug 2015 – June 2016		Amber
Further develop teaching resources for L3 languages.	June – September 2015		Amber
Extra Spanish FLA to support delivery of L3 in primaries	June - September 2015		Green
Organisation and filming of further teaching videos for L3	June - September 2015		Amber

Organise continued subscription to "High Five French." Continue to highlight use of this resource to schools.	Aug 2015 – December 2015		Green
Organise introduction of "Languagenut" resource through GLOW. CLPL training offered to staff.	Aug 2015 – December 2015		Amber
Further development of Modern Languages GLOW site to share resources and good practice.	Aug 2015 – June 2016		Amber
Primary Language Learning Framework developed for authority.	Aug 2015 – June 2016		Amber

Report on Year 1 (2014/15) of implementation of 1 + 2 Language Learning in East Renfrewshire

June 2015

This report gives details of the first delivery of L3 to all P5-P7 pupils between September 2014 and June 2015, including feedback from staff and pupils. It also includes details of the L3 teaching resources which have been developed and training provided to staff and identifies next steps in the development of this programme.

Resources for L3

- Pupil booklets, a teacher guide and additional photocopiable materials have been developed for the allocated L3 languages: Spanish, Italian and Mandarin. Materials have also been developed for German which it is planned will be used at some stage in addition to the other 3.
- All L3 courses have been developed to last 6 – 8 hours per academic session and are based on *Curriculum for Excellence* experiences and outcomes.
- The courses all include links to cultural topics and opportunities for interdisciplinary learning.
- All teaching materials are easily accessible for teachers on the ERC Modern Languages GLOW site.
- Useful teaching websites for all 3 languages have also been identified.
- Teaching films to support the delivery of these languages have been developed and are available on East Renfrewshire's You Tube channel.
- Foreign Language Assistants (funded through the Scottish Government 1+2 grant) and seconded Chinese teachers (funded through the Confucius partnership with China) support the delivery of L3

Delivery of L3

All pupils in Primaries 5, 6 and 7 have had the opportunity to begin to learn a second modern language (L3) over the course of 2014/15.

L3 was delivered through teaching blocks with class teachers delivering the language and cultural inputs for Spanish and Italian. The seconded Chinese teachers delivered the Mandarin language input, with class teachers delivering the Mandarin cultural lessons linked to the language.

In order that staff could support each other and to facilitate the rolling out of L3, all pupils in P5, P6 and P7 completed the same language topics and used the same booklets in session 2014/15.

In session 2015/16, additional teaching materials will be developed to support progression for pupils moving from P5 to P6 and P6 to P7.

Evaluation of L3 programme

Staff feedback

- Staff found the 'Launch Afternoon' on the in-service day in August 2014 very useful and were reassured that what they were being asked to deliver was achievable.
- 6-8 hours was seen by staff as a viable amount of teaching time.
- Staff liked the balance between language and cultural input.
- Feedback was very positive about the quality of the resources & the structured nature of the courses:

"I found the programme to be very detailed, consistent and extremely usable. The lessons were arranged consecutively, and were very clearly connected to the relevant experience and outcome."

(P5 Teacher OLM PS)

"Pupils have been highly motivated to learn the language and enjoyed the games and the interactive activities."

(P6 Teacher Crookfur PS)

- The teaching videos on East Renfrewshire's You Tube channel provided good support to the class teachers and they could be played repeatedly to reinforce language learning and focus on pronunciation. Staff also liked the fact that there were 2 versions of the videos (with & without subtitles.)
- Staff liked the word banks in the pupil workbooks and both staff and pupils used these to support their learning.
- In all 3 languages, staff used IDL approaches to link the language learning and cultural elements of the course. This included Spanish cooking masterclasses, tile design inspired by the Alhambra, the study of Picasso, Miró and Gaudi, Creating Origami Fans, Making Cherry Blossom Trees, and Chinese Noodle Tasting.
- Staff were able to make links to English and French, in terms of language learning.

"It provided good links to other areas for example we look at decoding and reading skills in English and we could make links to this as the same skills were being used in Spanish."

- Staff felt that it was a positive learning experience for pupils and many commented on how they enjoyed learning a new language along with the pupils:

"It really brought the language to life and made it interesting for the pupils as it provided good real life links." (Class teacher, Crookfur PS)

"They have been completely engrossed in the language learning and are keen to demonstrate their new knowledge in conversations" (P5 Teacher, Netherlee PS)

"My class really loved Mandarin and I had very positive feedback from parents at parents evening about this" (P6 Teacher Carolside PS)

- Some staff felt that there were too many language topics to cover in a short time and that perhaps the programme was too ambitious. There was a need

to include opportunities for consolidation and reinforcement within language lessons.

Pupil Feedback

Pupil feedback has been very positive. Pupils have enjoyed the challenge of learning a new language and have responded positively to the experience:

"I enjoyed it because in the future I would like to go to Spain. The writing was hard but fun because some of the words were similar to French so you could guess what they meant." (Crookfur PS pupil)

"I have enjoyed the cultural lessons because we made teapots and the football and we also got to eat Chinese noodles for New Year" (St. Joseph's PS pupil)

"It helps you for later in life when you apply for jobs." (Crookfur Primary Pupil)

"I thought it would be boring but it is fun and interesting. I like the part when we have conversations with each other. I feel like I have definitely learned new things" (P7 Netherlee pupil)

"I liked it because you get to learn 3 languages and other people are just stuck with one. It is helpful when you go on holiday. You won't be able to understand all of it but learning some of it helps." (Crookfur Primary pupil)

Next Steps for L3 programme

As the programme for L3 is rolled out, the following developments are planned for session 2015/16:

- A separate language booklet for Primary 5 for all 3 languages to include greetings, numbers 1-20, basic personal information & colours
- A combined Primary 6 & Primary 7 booklet, which includes revision of the basics, numbers to 31, birthdays, days of the week, months, weather, sports, pets, food, likes and dislikes.
- Sound files linked to vocabulary in pupil booklets
- More teaching videos, particularly slower, more straightforward films for Italian.
- Further development of the Modern Languages GLOW site, to support L2 & L3.
- An additional Spanish FLA to support the work in primaries
- Continued authority wide subscription to "High Five French"
- Development of "Language Nut" resource to support Primary Language Learning through GLOW
- Further development of East Renfrewshire Modern Languages Twitter account, to highlight and share good practice and useful information.
- Work with Principal Teachers of Modern Languages across the secondary schools to ensure progression of L3 within the broad general education.

ML training

French

Beginner's French CLPL for Primary staff has been provided to upskill staff and enable them to embed French within their daily routine. This CLPL is a 12 hour twilight course and covers basic language, methodology and resources. The course has run 3 times over session 2014/15 and 69 Primary/Pre 5 teachers have completed the course. Evaluations have been very positive:

"...good to start with basics and increase in difficulty. Useful having the opportunity to practise talking, listening and writing skills"

"Excellent range of resources provided"

"Topics covered were very relevant"

Next steps:

Primary staff will continue to be offered beginner's French CLPL. This will again be offered as twilight sessions in 2015/16.

A "Next Steps" Intermediate French course will also be offered for teachers who have completed the Beginners' course.

Spanish

A 3 hour "Introduction to Spanish" twilight course was also provided for Primary staff, linked to the teaching materials. This course was very well attended and evaluations were very positive.

"Lots of useful websites and class resources were provided and explained"

"Was a good introduction"

Next Steps:

Spanish CLPL will continue to be offered to Primary Staff in Session 2015/16. Training in Italian and Mandarin will also be offered.