

What did a primary school linguistics course ever do for my school?

1. The course will encourage an interest in and curiosity about language and languages.
2. The course will provide an understanding of the way in which a language works in terms of grammar and thereby the foundation for studying a single language, either in the last years of primary school or the early years of secondary schools.
3. The course will encourage thinking across languages and thereby enable pupils to make use of their own linguistic history. Pupils who have more than one language will be able to bring their languages into the classroom.
4. The course will enable pupils to look at and think about a very wide range of languages – and ways in which languages are written.
5. The course will have close cross-curricular links with other subjects:
 - English: the course will offer a creative way through which to deal with grammar, the diversity of language, etymology, spelling, the development of vocabulary and encourage creative writing across languages.
 - History: the spread of languages, the impact of the Roman Empire on the languages of Europe (and beyond), the history of England and its language, the impact of migration.
 - Science and Maths: the meanings of scientific terms: borrowings and creations from Greek, Latin, Arabic.
 - Geography: the distribution of languages across continents
 - Art: alphabets, calligraphy, manuscripts
6. The course will encourage the enjoyment of linguistic games and code-breaking, which are particularly appealing to children of this age.
7. The course will develop a sense of the similarity of languages and thereby generate a greater sense of community in the school.
8. The course will provide resources through its website both for pupils and teachers so that even teachers who are not trained as language teachers will feel confident to deliver it.
9. The course will encourage teachers in schools to work together across subjects.
10. The course will be flexible so that schools will be able to adapt it as they choose and make it work in different ways in their curriculum.
11. The course will bring different schools together to share ideas and develop the course over time.
12. Those who have devised the course have close links with a wide range of other organisations, from primary schools to universities which will enrich the programme over time through webinars, podcasts, visits etc.
13. In particular, the course will lend itself to close collaboration with the partnership activities of secondary schools, perhaps particularly independent secondary schools which often have strong language departments and senior pupils who are keen to help.

14. The course will ensure that primary school pupils will be ready for transition to secondary, not through having learnt a language, but through having understood what it takes to understand and learn any language. With confidence and curiosity and enthusiasm, they should be better linguists in Year 7 and more likely to continue languages throughout secondary school.