

# CASE STUDY

## Highgate School

Independent, Mixed, Day School  
Pre-Prep from Reception to Year 2  
Junior School from Year 3 to Year 6  
Senior School from Year 7 to Year 13  
London, England



### How we use WoLLoW

WoLLoW is taught for 1 term in Y3, throughout Y5 and as part of a 6-week Languages Carousel in Y6.

### Junior School – Year 3 to 6

In the Junior School, pupils are taught WoLLoW as part of Principal's Time in Years 3 and 5. This is a 25-minute weekly session that each class has with the School Principal. In Year 6, WoLLoW is delivered by the Senior School Head of Languages as part of the languages carousel, which introduces pupils to the range of languages offered in the Senior School.

In Year 3, Principal's Time also includes a short introductory course in Portuguese. Alongside WoLLoW, pupils study French in Years 3 and 4, Spanish in Year 5, and participate in a languages carousel in Year 6 comprising Mandarin, Spanish, Russian and German. These languages lessons last for 50 minutes.

Teaching begins in Year 3 with Unit 1 and progresses through the Scheme of Work, with pupils completing Unit 6 in Year 6. Pupils respond very positively to the learning and discussion embedded within WoLLoW lessons. In particular, they value opportunities to hear from classmates who can share personal knowledge, experiences and cultural identities linked to the languages and themes explored across the units.

In Year 3, lessons place a strong emphasis on discussion and questioning, culminating in a final piece of written work in which pupils explore their own cultural identities. In Years 5 and 6, pupils use dedicated WoLLoW booklets to record notes and complete structured activities and worksheets as appropriate.

The highlight for many pupils is Unit 6, where they create their own language. Working collaboratively in teams, pupils develop and present creative outcomes—such as poems, songs or posters—using their invented language. This unit is particularly valued for the enjoyment, creativity and teamwork it fosters.



## PRINCIPAL FEEDBACK

“WoLLoW lessons have enabled me to know and understand our pupils on a far deeper and more meaningful level. They **celebrate the rich diversity of backgrounds, experiences, and identities** within our school, giving pupils a powerful voice and an opportunity to learn from one another. It has been a joy to see pupils inspired and enthused by languages; curious not only about words, but about people, culture and the ways language shapes who we are. **The lessons are filled with energy, thoughtful discussion and genuine delight** as pupils share their stories and uncover fascinating insights into the history and influence of languages over time.”

- Ms Philippa Studd, Principal of the Junior School

## PUPIL FEEDBACK

“I love the linguistics element of WoLLoW, **it has been fascinating to learn about the history and origins of words.**”

- Year 6 pupil

“**We all look forward to WoLLoW** in our class and get excited every week when we see it on the timetable. We cannot wait to create our own language!”

- Year 5 pupil

“It has been really interesting to learn about the languages and heritages of other children in our class. **I loved creating the ‘All about me’ poster which showed me how many different languages I am exposed to.**”

-Year 5 pupil

