**Languages statutory from September 2014 in Key Stage 2**

The teaching of a Foreign Language will be compulsory for all schools with Key Stage 2 pupils from September 2014.

Schools can choose any language that they wish to, including Ancient Greek and Latin. The recommendation is that the same language is learnt throughout the four years.

The only guidance at the moment that has been produced by the government is the Programme of Study for Languages at KS2 and KS3. In my opinion, the KS2 objectives can act as an end of Key Stage checklist for assessment purposes to inform the secondary schools about attainment. They are not sufficient as a planning tool for primary teachers. There is already in existence a perfectly good document containing a set of objectives for each year which details the knowledge and skills which have to be attained in each year. This is the Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages produced in 2005. With the demise of the National Curriculum levels, we are lucky in the languages world that we have the Languages Ladder which was developed to assess and record progress in any language as part of Life Long Learning. There is also the Common European Framework of Competence in Languages which is used throughout Europe.

There are many websites now where teachers can find Schemes of Work which are being adapted to meet all the new requirements. You can access my public website free of charge and download KS2 Schemes of Work in Spanish, German and Turkish plus materials in French. This is [www.bcclanguages.co.uk](http://www.bcclanguages.co.uk) You can also follow us on twitter to be kept informed of new additions to the site and new developments. Go to the website and sign up to follow us.

All primary schools should also join the Association for Language Learners as this is now the only national body supporting those teaching languages. Go to [www.all-languages.org.uk](http://www.all-languages.org.uk) or email wendyn@all-languages.org.uk for more information.

If you are just starting out teaching languages at KS2, I suggest that you start only with year 3 and develop your work gradually. It is difficult now to expect to implement a language at the same time throughout KS2. You will need to produce a policy to demonstrate how you plan to develop the work across the key stage.

You will find that pupils love learning languages and make great progress in a short space of time. You should aim for them to reach grade 3 or 4 of the Languages Ladder (equivalent to NC levels 3 and 4) in all the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing by the end of year 6. You need to talk to your secondary MFL departments so that they can prepare to change their KS3 curriculum to build on pupils’ attainment levels and design a more challenging curriculum.

Bernadette Clinton b.clinton@mdx.ac.uk January 2014 [www.bcclanguages.co.uk](http://www.bcclanguages.co.uk)