



Madani Schools Federation Celebrating bilingual learners in schools and the teaching and accreditation of community languages

Language World 2021

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Celebrating bilingual learners in schools and the teaching and accreditation of community languages

- The Madani Schools context
- Celebrating bilingualism
- How to build on bilingual students' prior knowledge of their own languages.
- Deciding on which language to teach.
- Teaching community languages.
- Supporting the parents of bilingual children to access their complete curriculum.
- Q&A

The Madani Schools context



- 80% EAL students
- Approximately 35% FSM
- Microcosm of Leicester; richly diverse and multicultural city with areas of disadvantage and deprivation.
- Faith-designated school with strong community links.
- Growing PAN; over-subscribed.





Celebrating bilingualism

- European Languages day
- UN Arabic day.
- Use of prior knowledge in lessons and the positive impact that has on learning other languages.
- 2/3 languages taught at KS3
- As an Oracy Hub school in Leicester we also celebrate speech in various forms and we talk to all stakeholders about the importance of speaking and listening across all languages and how parents can support this at home.



How to build on bilingual students' prior knowledge of their own languages.

- Grammatical knowledge of the use of masculine and feminine nouns
- Use of register
- Word order
- Prefix knowledge
- Morphology & etymology.



Deciding on which language to teach.

- Year 7 students are asked at admissions which languages they can read/ write/ speak/ listen to, and then in year 8 they are asked whether they would like to be assessed in this language, with a view to taking a GCSE.
- We then conduct a thorough assessment mirroring but not entirely replicating a GCSE exam.
- We consider the curriculum content that we need to teach and based on the assessments of the learners before us, if we have a member of staff who can teach that language, or if we could recruit someone to teach that language, we then offer an introductory year/ fast track ks3 in year 9 in that community language to students.



Teaching community languages.

- We look at the learners in front of us to scaffold a fast-track ks3/ introductory year in the community language.
- It is imperative they can already access all 4 skills, although, we do expect that they will make errors.
- For students who could already access the GCSE without teaching following an assessment, we offer guidance as to self-study for a few years and they check in with the Languages HoD and the Exams Officer about the demands of the exam in year 10.
- We then ensure they take their GCSE in year 10, so that they do not have to worry about it alongside their other GCSEs.



How we support parents of bilingual children to access their complete curriculum.

- We offer literacy courses to our parents of EAL students, with basic English and computer literacy.
- This in turn allows parents to support their children with all aspects of their learning.



Q&A

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