



A quick word about...

1 + 2 Language Learning in East Ayrshire

February 2017

Introduction

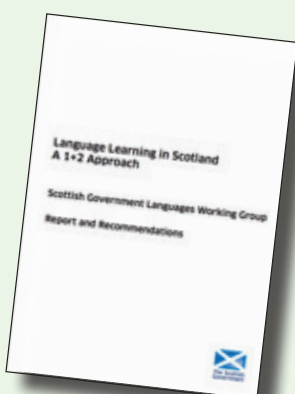
In 2011, Dr Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages set up a working group to examine language learning in Scotland's schools.

The Working Group included representation from head teachers, teachers, modern language practitioners, Education Scotland, Scotland's National Centre for Languages (SCILT), Association of Directors of Education in Scotland, universities, Scottish Teachers Education Committee, General Teaching Council for Scotland, National Parent Forum Scotland and businesses.

It advocated a new approach, based on the European 1+2 system, which gives pupils the opportunity to study two languages, plus their mother tongue, by the time they leave school.

It also highlighted a significant decline in the number of languages taken forward to SQA certification and considered evidence that young people are not always sufficiently challenged and motivated by current language learning approaches.

The full report can be read here: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0039/00393435.pdf>



Impact of the report

The Scottish Government decided to implement the report recommendations, so that by 2020, young people would be equipped with the skills they need.

A Languages Strategic Implementation Group was set up in 2013 and, since then, £16.2m has been allocated to Local Authorities to help implement the 1+2 model.

By June 2016, 21 out of 32 Scottish Local Authorities were offering learning in a first additional language for P1 pupils.

From 2020 every child will be entitled to learn a first additional language from P1 and a second by P5. This entitlement continues until the end of S3.

Language Learning in East Ayrshire

In 2015, East Ayrshire Council established a 1+2 team to help implement the new language policy across schools in the area by looking at three key areas:

- Language provision in primary schools – helping develop the language teaching program, or assisting with the introduction of language learning for the first time.
- Language provision in secondary schools - and continuation of language learning for pupils coming from primary schools.
- Continuous Professional Development for teachers and language staff in all schools – helping them rise to the challenges of 1+2 and identify new ways to make language learning accessible and fun. In addition, the introduction of a 1+2 policy had staffing implications for many secondary schools, especially where an increased number of teachers had to teach more than one language.



Key developments so far

Transition programme

In order to help young learners continue and progress their language learning, the 1+2 team has been working on a transition programme between primary and secondary schools.

Spanish through drama

This offers pupils skills in drama and media techniques, which can be used to develop language and communication skills.

Through broadcasting, media skills and drama, pupils explore Spanish by working on topics such as travel, location reports, media interviews and documentary narrative.

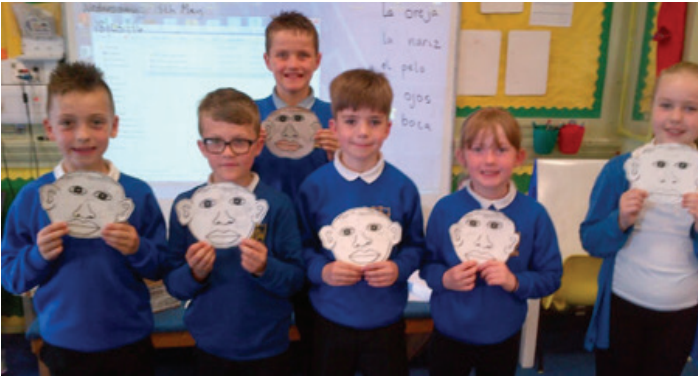
French for Early Years

Evidence shows that children of all ages can learn a language and the 1+2 Languages Team have taken French to Early Years Centres.

Teaching very young children basic foreign language skills can result in faster language learning and better performance in other areas. As well as laying the foundations for later learning, early language learning can influence attitudes towards other languages and cultures.

Picasso – Life, art and Spanish

A project where primary pupils learn Spanish while creating a Picasso style painting. Through this, they learn about Picasso's life, Spanish culture and learn to talk about themselves and their family.



Gaelic Medium Education: Feis Cille Mheàrnaig

The first Kilmarnock Fèis (Fèis Cille Mheàrnaig), supported by East Ayrshire Council, Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Vibrant Communities was held at Onthank Primary School in September 2016.

It offered a fun weekend of traditional Gaelic culture, with song, dance, music and a ceilidh and adult taster classes in Gaelic proved popular. The event is set to be repeated and expanded in 2017.



Gaelic Learner Education

Recognising that many schools in the primary sector wanted introduce Gaelic, third parties were asked to assist.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal tutors attending three primaries (125 pupils) for a block of 10 sessions, culminating in a joint ceilidh for all pupils to enjoy.

A Gaelic Pupil and Parent Club meets every week at one primary school and an additional Gaelic Language Learning programme is a key part of helping teaching staff to introduce Gaelic in primary schools. The Council has also taken a new approach, by training the 1+2 Team to deliver Gaelic to more schools over a shorter period of time, rather than have one member of staff based in one school teaching the subject within their school only. This ensures we follow the 1+2 Policy with regard to another language and also meet the requirements of the national Gaelic Language Plan for Scotland.

In addition, a professional bilingual circus school was invited to deliver Gaelic (and Spanish) to upper primary and S1 pupils, helping to support transition.

Language for business/enterprise/technology

Two 'Languages for Business' events for S3 pupils have been held at Kilmarnock Academy (2016) and at Joseph's Academy in 2017, in partnership with the Ayrshire Chamber.



Pupils heard from business leaders who view languages as a key skill in today's globalised world and how languages can enhance communication skills, motivation and employability opportunities.

Marketplace stalls were set up so pupils could visit different organisations and businesses and discover more about the range of careers and employment opportunities available within different sectors – all of which view language development as a crucial part of education.

CPD Training

Teachers from P1 to P7 are being trained in the French Framework at different stages, starting with the basic vocabulary and structures. Bringing in third parties such as SCILT to deliver specific training for individuals has been a frequent occurrence, helping staff to gain deeper understanding of 1+2 and 'Transition' from primary to secondary.

A variety of new and innovative resources including software, toys and games, are all helping to make learning a language fun. Building on this success, both Spanish and Gaelic are now also being developed.



Working together for Language Learning



Hosted by the Council, language experts, organisations, businesses, Head Teachers and Parent Councils attended a Language Conference at the Burns Monument Centre in Kilmarnock in October 2016.

The event focused on the importance of working collaboratively with parents and parent councils, involving them on school improvement plans and the importance of languages in the curriculum.



It was also an opportunity to show how language learning can lead to a wider appreciation of different cultures and countries – essential skills in a rapidly changing world, where multi-lingual skills can be crucial for digital interactions between people and business.



School Christmas Event



A festive event, organised in partnership with Kilmarnock Heritage Trust and the Community Village invited three different schools to “Christmas at the Magic Station” (“Noël à la Gare Magique”).

Kilmarnock railway station was turned into a bilingual Christmas grotto and pupils presented a “passport” in French (which they had completed in class time) to gain entry.



They went through a passport control where they stated their name and age in French. They were then led by the Elves to the ‘Magic Gate’. Rudolph was there and pupils advised him what to eat and how to get fit ready for Christmas Eve, all in French.



At the café, pupils were expected to buy a drink and something to eat in French using ‘special Euro money vouchers’. They sat in Santa’s house where stockings were hung, sang a carol in French and completed a Christmas Quiz – a festive French tradition.



Mandarin/Confucius Hub showcase



During 2016, over 300 pupils from East, North and South Ayrshire schools took part in a spectacular school Mandarin Showcase, held at the Grand Hall in Kilmarnock.

The show included dance, music and song to promote and show the work they have been doing to learn Mandarin Chinese.

The Council (through Grange Academy) has an established Confucius learning hub which links to Xinhua High School in Tianjin, China to help with the planning of cultural activities in schools, sharing ideas and resources to stimulate the learning and teaching of Chinese language and culture.

The Mandarin Showcase is to become an annual event and is an excellent way for pupils to gain from exposure to a different culture and language teaching.

Mandarin Chinese is a complex and difficult language to grasp and the showcase give learning a context – as well as an opportunity to apply new language skills to the different song and dance numbers.



Languages by numbers

700 pupils
across 6 primary schools
ARE CURRENTLY PART OF
A PILOT PROGRAMME IN
Gaelic



This is aimed specifically at Gaelic 'learners' (not Gaelic medium) education. Plans are in place to 'showcase' pupils learning at annual school events to be held at various times in the spring term. Alongside this, a Gaelic-learner parent and pupil, is also being piloted.

31
PRIMARY SCHOOLS
HAVE BEEN
TRAINED
IN FRENCH
(L2)

1
SPECIAL
EDUCATION
SCHOOL HAS
BEEN TRAINED IN
BASIC FRENCH
AND GIVEN A
SPANISH TASTER
SESSION

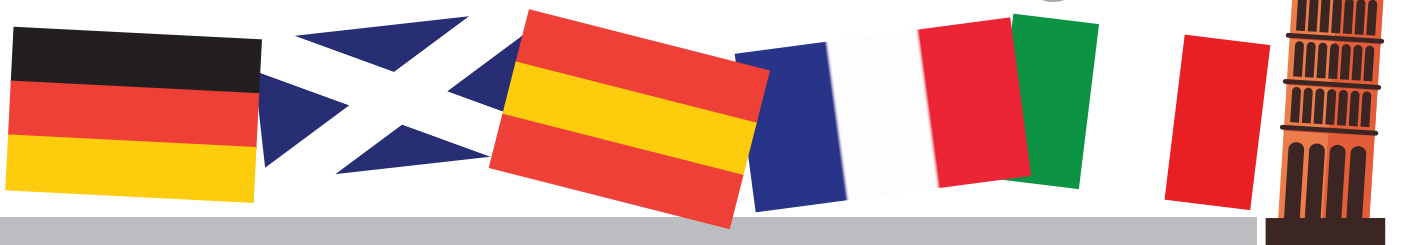
22
EARLY
CHILDHOOD
CENTRES
HAVE BEEN
TRAINED IN
FRENCH

OVER 20

PRIMARY SCHOOLS have already taken some
training in a second modern language for L3
(Spanish, German, Gaelic, Scots language, Italian, BSL)



100% of secondary schools
have committed to
the 1+2 Programme



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