



## Latin curriculum at Town Field

**Date:** September 2024 and reviewed on an on-going basis

### Introduction

The National curriculum states:

*Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world.*

Town Field Primary is a culturally diverse primary school with over 40 languages spoken by our children and families. In response to our context, our language curriculum has at least the scope of the National curriculum and aims to give pupils both a secure foundation knowledge of the Latin language and a taster of some of the 'best bits' of culture from Ancient Greece and Rome. Children develop their cultural literacy which, in turn, enriches their understanding of the contemporary world.

### Rationale

***'Ancient languages offer students a portal to the past and act as a foundation for learning several other languages. Latin and Greek are worthy of study in their own right, offer advantages of accessibility and facilitate connections across the curriculum as learners explore ancient cultures through, and beyond, language study.'***

Ancient languages in primary schools in England: A Literature Review (Department for Education, 2022)

Our Latin curriculum has been designed following consultation with teachers, children, parents/carers and governors. We teach Latin as our ancient language for a range of important reasons, which include...

As well as learning the language, children learn by making meaningful connections with lots of other subjects, not least English grammar and history. Latin is a strong foundation on which to build future learning of modern foreign languages, too.

Much of the English language derives from Latin (or Greek) roots. By broadening children's vocabulary with the knowledge and skills to identify word roots, families and classes, we inspire children to seek out Latin links in their everyday lives.

Latin fosters a curiosity about the origins of our language (and other languages). It better prepares our children for secondary school (our children transition to a range of secondary settings, all of which teach a range of different languages; most of the modern foreign languages taught at secondary school are Romance languages which have Latin roots).

***'There is strong evidence to suggest that where Latin and Greek are given the opportunity to flourish, so do students, from a range of backgrounds and pupils with EAL, SEND and FSM tend to make greater progress than other learners.'***

Ancient languages in primary schools in England: A Literature Review (Department for Education, 2022)

The Department for Education document (Ancient languages in primary schools in England: A Literature Review, 2022) sets out various research putting forward the benefits of teaching Latin.

## Curriculum structure

Latin (ancient language) is a National Curriculum foundation subject. We teach it each week for an extended lesson in Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6). We made the conscious decision not to introduce this area of the curriculum until Year 5.

## Resources

We use the [Minimus](#) scheme of learning as the basis for our Latin curriculum.

After consultation with various experts in the field of Classics, such as representatives from [Classics for all](#) and Educational specialist from a local independent school, we chose the Minimus scheme because:

- It is trusted: it is written by experts in their field
- the learning it provides is appropriate for our setting
- the knowledge and skills children gain has been carefully specified, ordered coherently and built on over time
- the vocabulary and literacy knowledge in the scheme allows children to make meaningful connections and develop understanding of how many languages in our world are connected.

The content of our Latin learning is set out below:

	Content
Years 5	Minimus: Starting out in Latin chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Years 6	Minimus: Starting out in Latin chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Teachers adapt learning resources within the scheme to suit our children. These are used to develop interest and excitement towards our Latin learning in weekly lessons. Teachers are encouraged to facilitate learning discussions by exploring with children and allowing children's curiosity to develop and be heard. Written learning may not always be evidenced, but all pupils can access and engage with the curriculum. We support children to revisit and develop understanding of Latin and English vocabulary across the year (and also across different subjects).

## Long-term plan for Latin

	core learning	cultural capital
Year 5	Chapter 1 nouns and noun endings	Vindolanda
	Chapter 2 adjectives	food
	Chapter 3 verbs	work
	Chapter 4 consolidation / Latin roots	Roman school life
	Chapter 5 adverbs	life in Briton
	Chapter 6 more nouns	Eboracum (York)
Years 6	Chapter 7 plural forms of verbs	the Roman army
	Chapter 8 adverbs / whole sentences	Roman health
	Chapter 9 prepositions	the life of a Roman soldier
	Chapter 10 conjunctions	Romantic ring
	Chapter 11 subject and object	death and how people were remembered and honoured
	Chapter 12 consolidation	gods and religion

## Age-related expectations: Ancient language – Latin

Ancient language - Latin	Year 1 (expectations for the end of Year 5)	Year 2 (expectations for the end of Year 6)
<p>There are lots of reasons to teach Latin rather than the perhaps more typical choices of Spanish or French. They include:</p> <p>Learning Latin supports learning other languages in the future. About 80% of words in Romance languages such as French, Spanish and Italian come from Latin. In Year 7, your child might learn French, or Spanish, or German perhaps. In most cases, there won't be much choice, and different secondary schools offer different languages for Year 7 students. Latin provides a really useful basis to learn other languages.</p> <p>Latin also helps to enhance your child's understanding in English, too. About two thirds of English words are derived from Latin, so your child will be more confident when they come across a new word in English.</p>	<p><b>Knowledge and other learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I know at least one reason why it's good to learn a language in addition to English.</li> <li>• I know where some foreign languages are spoken.</li> <li>• I know some strategies that help me to remember key words and phrases.</li> <li>• I know some facts about key figures in the classical world.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Knowledge and other learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I know at least three reasons why it's good to learn a language in addition to English.</li> <li>• I know the five most widely spoken Romance languages (Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian and Romanian).</li> <li>• I know and use strategies that help me to remember key words and phrases.</li> <li>• I know some facts about everyday life for people living in the Roman Empire.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can listen to spoken Latin and show understanding.</li> <li>• I can identify some patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and begin to link the spelling, sound and meaning of words.</li> <li>• I can speak in sentences, using increasingly familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures.</li> <li>• I can read and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing.</li> <li>• I can appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in Latin.</li> <li>• I can broaden my vocabulary and develop my ability to understand new words, including through using a dictionary.</li> <li>• I can write some simple phrases from memory.</li> <li>• I can begin to describe people, places, things and actions.</li> <li>• I can understand basic Latin grammar (including feminine and masculine; the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; and how these differ from or are similar to English).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I can listen attentively to spoken Latin and show understanding by joining in and responding.</li> <li>• I can explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words.</li> <li>• I can speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures.</li> <li>• I can read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing.</li> <li>• I can appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in Latin.</li> <li>• I can broaden my vocabulary and develop my ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary.</li> <li>• I can write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly.</li> <li>• I can describe people, places, things and actions in writing.</li> <li>• I can understand basic Latin grammar (including feminine and masculine; the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English).</li> </ul>