



## **The Value of Learning Spanish**

*One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.*  
(Frank Smith – Canadian psycholinguist)

- Spanish is the second, most spoken language by native speakers in the world, with more than 400 million Spanish speakers in 21 countries.
- Learning Spanish opens doors of opportunities for travel and work
- Making connections and seeing patterns in Spanish develops literacy skills in English
- According to the Languages for the Future Report, Spanish is highlighted as the most important language for people in the UK to learn.

*If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.*  
(Nelson Mandela)



## **Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish) at St Mary's Catholic Academy**

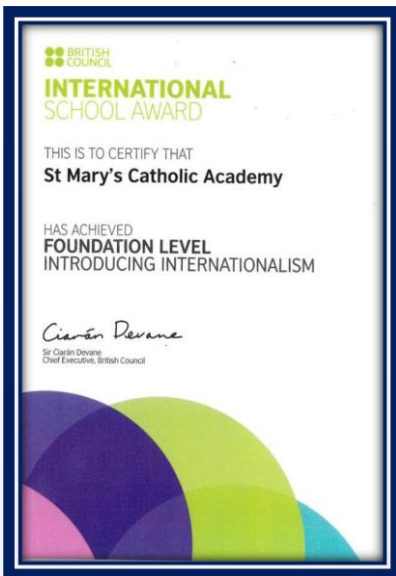


**We are very proud of our Spanish language programme and our commitment to learning about our wider, Hispanic and European community.**

### **We aim to:**

- **Open the minds of the children to the impact of communicating in another language.**
- **Foster an enjoyment, curiosity and an appreciation of different languages**
- **Lay the foundations of learning another language as a platform into secondary school language learning**
- **Provide purposeful opportunities to apply the new language**
- **Encourage a life-long love of language learning**
- **Develop children's understanding of their place in the wider world**
- **Develop greater intercultural understanding, promoting global citizenship through European partnerships**
- **Celebrate language learning with our wider Hispanic and European community.**
- **Support British values of tolerance and respect for other cultures**

**We are pleased to have achieved the Foundation Level of the International Award through our work with the wider European community**



**Christmas Greetings from around Europe**



## What does Spanish look like at St Marys?

- Spanish is taught weekly to children in Years 3-6
- Year 3 have one 40 minute lesson per week. Years 4, 5 and 6 each have 45 minutes.
- We follow the Rachel Hawkes scheme of work to ensure coverage and progression across the school
- Speaking and listening skills are developed through conversational work, singing and playing games
- As confidence and skills grow, children record their work through pictures, captions, sentences and then paragraphs – using learnt conjunctions to extend their pieces of writing.
- Displays and labels are used around school to remind children of vocabulary
- In the classroom, instructions are given in Spanish wherever possible
- We celebrate language learning through assemblies and Spanish enrichment days
- Children are introduced to cultural traditions through the exploration of the arts, food, festivals etc.
- Each year, we participate in different European projects in order to facilitate greater intercultural understanding, and celebrate our similarities and differences
- Children are given opportunities to apply language skills in mock set-ups including cafes and shops