



The primary and secondary schools in Hackney teach Spanish as their First Foreign Language.

“Analysis of the 2024/25 GCSE entry data shows Hackney had the highest take-up of Spanish of all local authorities in England” CAR

Secondary schools also teach a variety of languages including Arabic, Mandarin, French, Modern Hebrew, Polish, Portuguese, Turkish, Latin and Italian.

In 2025 there were entries at GCSE in 17 different languages from Arabic to Urdu



GCSE Spanish Entries – have we made a difference?



YEAR	SPANISH
2018	808
2019	1010
2020	1213
2021 No exams	1319
2022	1250
2023 1 ST Cohort from primary sat GCSE	1266
2024	1199
2025	1162

Recognising and Celebrating our Wealth of Languages



- 160 languages are spoken in our school – information gained through the school census
- We showcase the top 12 with a monthly “Language of the Month” – eg March’s Language of the Month is Somali
- We are part of Hackney’s Multilingual Project with primary and secondary schools
- We hold Celebration Events in our languages - so far Polish and Turkish, involving the local community, supplementary schools and the Polish Embassy



Transition

- Building on prior learning from KS2 to KS3 is central to our work
- Some strategies others may already be using or might want to try:
 - Joint CPD sessions eg our Autumn Term CPD was on sharing ways that both primary and secondary prepare pupils for the GCSE skills
 - Transfer Year 6 data to the receiving secondary school- ensure Language Depts know what has been covered in primary by eg using the ASCL Checklist; taking KS3 children to deliver a lesson in KS2 and vice versa; teaching in the new KS.
 - Set up Modelling sessions for primary and secondary teachers to observe excellent KS2 practice



Teaching in the other setting and ways of working together, what can other schools do?

Raquel Tola Rego

Parkwood Primary School

Transition projects with secondary schools

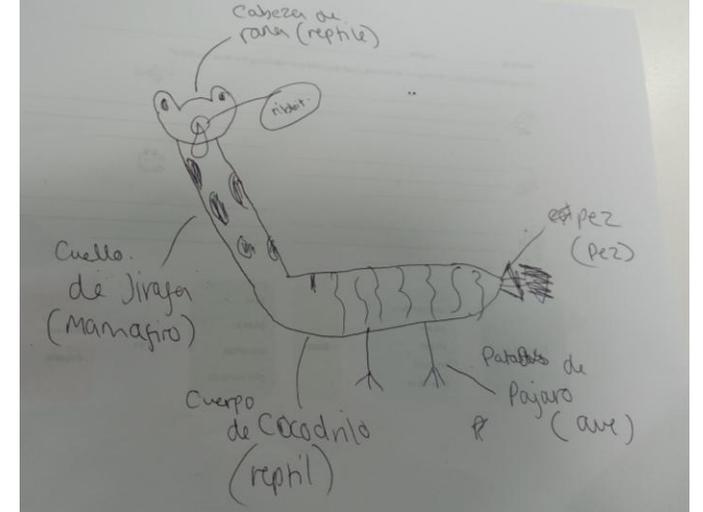
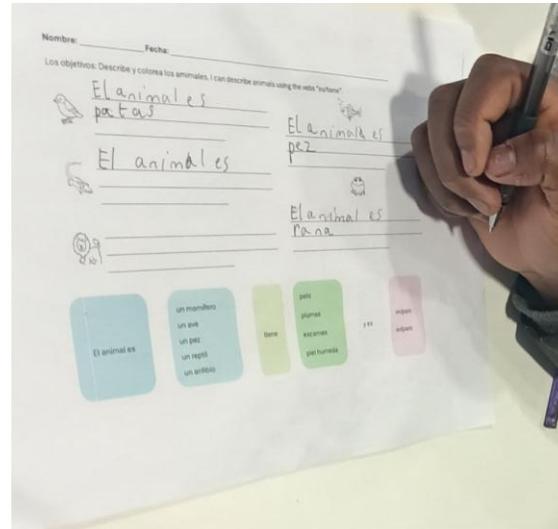
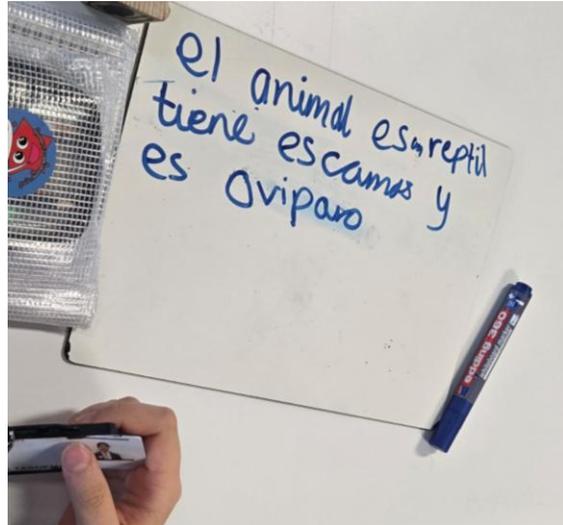
- Working with multiple secondary schools simultaneously to ensure more opportunities for pupils
- Taking Y5 & Y6 pupils to secondary schools for taster lessons of other languages.
- Joining joint activities organised by Hackney Education for KS2 & KS3 like attending a film in Spanish at the Rio Cinema, or a Theatre performance in Spanish at All Saints Secondary School.
- Taking Y5 & Y6 pupils to deliver a CLIL lesson to a Y8 class. Skinners will bring student to teach Spanish at Parkwood.
- Working with colleagues from secondary schools to learn about each other's settings to better understand the impact of transition for both, students and teachers.



French taster lesson to celebrate European Day of Languages at Skinners Academy



Teaching CLIL to Y8 at Skinners



Some feedback from Y8

Everyone was amazing
and very talented
I learn so much.
They were also
so helpful!!

I enjoyed this
lesson. I learned
a lot of new Spanish
words today.

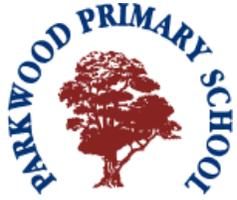
The students were
very helpful and
sweet. ~~They~~ Their
vocabulary was extremely
impressive and for their
age, their knowledge was
great.

They were impressive
like ~~the~~ they are kids they
understand Spanish
more than I do

I learned ~~think~~ so
much things
and I really
enjoyed this
Lesson in helped
me improve my
~~Spanish~~ Spanish.

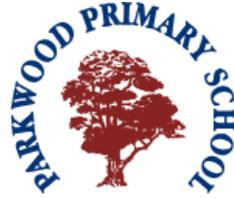
I enjoyed this. I would
like to have an
experience like this
again.

It was a very calm lesson and
I would want more lessons like this
and I learned a bit more and
thank you.



- Observing each other teach
- Cristina teaching a Y3 lesson





Impact:

- Y3 pupils felt very special and confident
- Cristina and myself have a better understanding of each other's curriculum and understand and value “the power” of collaboration
- Mutual respect and inspiration (planning to develop our transition work further)



Planning

- Observing each other teach
- Planning CLIL workshops for pupils at Stormont House
- Pupils from Stormont to join with Hispanic Week activities at Parkwood

