

Teach effectively
Record progress and achievement
Choose the right resources

ESFORAL Supplementary School
Silver Quality Framework Award 2006 pilot

Background

ESFORAL was set up to promote the Latin American culture and language to children from all over London. The students learn Spanish and a variety of Latin American arts from dancing to drama and art, as well as Latin American history. They also teach geography and science at the school. It serves 110 students aged 3-16 and is based in Camden, a central location to accommodate pupils from neighbourhoods all over London like Enfield and Greenwich amongst many others.

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On joining the school, pupils have their level of Spanish fluency assessed to ascertain where best to place them in the school. Teachers consider the outcome of this assessment in planning any group work or in designing individual learning plans. All subjects are taught in Spanish as this helps increase fluency in the language. There is an atmosphere of learning to think in Spanish as a way of constantly increasing the pupils' fluency levels.

The school embeds the history, geography and culture of Latin America in all its learning activities to help learners understand their cultural background. There are a variety of resources teachers draw on to make the lessons exciting. These include maps, artifacts, photographs of architectural buildings and musical instruments.

ESFORAL provides a wide range of activities for both pupils and parents. Their lessons and activities are thoroughly-planned and evaluated on a monthly basis. Teachers employ a range of different teaching methods. They encourage pupils to say what they want to learn about South America and involve them in practical activities to allow this, like role-playing, story telling and singing. ESFORAL is particularly successful in providing a wide range of learning opportunities like drama, dance and theatre the kind of activities they enjoy most.

The school is keen on regular reviews of their work and the children's work, ensuring that books are marked regularly, and lesson plans regularly updated. There is an assessment of pupils' progress every term. This ascertains what the children are achieving and a report of this achievement is handed over to children at end-of-term parents' meetings. This shows regular assessments are taken and thus the teaching can be adjusted accordingly to accommodate any improvements.

Top Tips

- Regularly assess the levels of your pupils' language abilities. Make an initial assessment when they start.
- Surround the children with stimuli and language that will allow them to think in different ways.

- Provide a range of activities. Don't be scared to try new things. Children can be more engaged when there is a lot of variety.