

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The project in detail

Language is a means of communication and expression which allows people to interact.

The P.O.F. of our school implies the teaching of foreign languages in all streams, each one offering a different number of languages and hours, according to the stream chosen or the options offered throughout the five-year study plan.

A foreign language is always a must in the fifth year. It is a subject that is always tested in the Secondary School final exam.

The specific contribution of modern languages to the curriculum may be summarised as follows:

- It helps to develop personal skills of observation and reflection thanks to the comparison, selection, interpretation and rearrangement of the information attained from various sources;
- It helps to create interest in the life-styles and cultures of other countries through language.
Consequently it reinforces the awareness of the pupil's own cultural identity;
- It helps to promote social interaction, encourage the understanding of foreign populations and helps with the appreciation of cultures, the respect for and acceptance of opinions for what they actually are. The outcome implies the abolition of prejudices and intolerance and, at the same time, develops a critical sense with regards to socio-cultural situations and which are different from one's own experience.

Assuming that the educational experience attends to the cultural and civic formation of each individual, and thanks to the specific contribution of this subject to the educational plan, one can state that the following primary objectives are to be achieved by pupils by studying a foreign language:

- To set the link between one's cultural identity and that of other countries in order to become aware of their analogies and differences;
- To communicate in the various foreign languages studied;
- To reflect upon a variety of languages and cultures in order to detect and observe similarities and differences, even on a theoretical level.

In order to achieve these objectives, the following methodological choices are considered essential:

- Classes will be held in the language studied from the start of the learning experience; for this purpose, the contribution of mother-tongue teachers in the language courses is considered fundamental as it exposes the pupils to authentic and distinct models of varieties of language; teaching material and text-books reinforce the communicative approach as they are supplied with tapes, videos and sometimes multimedia equipment, offering the most authentic material possible.