

British Values in MFL

People, their relationships and their interactions with others are an intrinsic part of what we teach in MFL, and the cultural immersion of learning a language cannot be avoided.

In MFL, pupils are encouraged to consider this in the study of each of our languages, namely French, Spanish, and German and we promote study of other languages and cultures, amongst other things via our Italian, Portuguese, Polish courses as well as our Mandarin course in partnership with King's College. We give our students an opportunity to both consider the needs and experiences of people of other cultures, and reflect upon their own response to this via:

KS3:

Various topics (Y7 French transition Unit literary text by Paul Eluard is exploited to discuss WW1 & WW2- and its Résistants who helped fight for British and European values; Y8 and food / drinks & world / religious celebrations; students begin by exploring Catholic/Christian/Muslim religious and Pagan celebrations and festivals in target language countries and reflect on their meaning, significance as we believe learning about and understand the different cultures and religion in our community brings us together under the British value of tolerance.

Y9 do some work around film studies in which democracy, tolerance, well-being of young people and the evolution of the law are discussed to promote tolerance and respect (Au revoir les enfants / Sophie Scholl).

KS4:

Students learn how religion and beliefs are reflected in the use of language, and they understand how religion and faith varies across the Bundesländer. Christmas still remains a huge religious and family-centred festival and we talk about its importance in lessons.

Faith and spiritualism play an important part in any society, especially here at the Ursuline.

KS5: Older students look at the 'bigger picture' of immigration, its history and effects on current-day society. This includes a consideration of the Muslim faith Roma spiritualism and also the Jewish faith. This is part of both the core curriculum and the cultural studies of 'Un sac de billes' and 'La France sous l'Occupation". Students also learn about communities such as the Basque region and the civil war in Spain. In German, KS5 students learn about and discuss the East / West division.

In all 3languages, KS5 also enables us to discuss and compare the different views / social debates / legal positions & rules in England vs target language countries.

We also encourage students to discover, discuss and debate unfamiliar lifestyles, global events, controversial issues, problems and changes in our KS5 curriculum.

Overall, in MFL we feel that the very nature of our subject enables students to become more aware of key British values and the British identity (vs the one of the Target Language country) and teachers promote these values throughout the year by modelling respect and tolerance as well as via discussing key issues / traditions and customs across the Key stages.