

# The Jersey Language Policy for Education

*Languages form an integral part of life for people living in Jersey and their contribution to a diverse and vibrant society should be acknowledged and celebrated. Language promotion and development are essential for identity and inclusion and it is the aim of this policy to provide a consistent framework for educators to create optimal conditions for students to achieve and reach their full potential.*

## **MULTILINGUALISM MISSION STATEMENT:**

### **Mission**

Jersey schools encourage, welcome and respond to a diverse range of language strengths, needs and identities, with the task of preparing students to leave school/college with the linguistic, academic, and social skills and competencies they require to fully participate in and make meaningful contributions to society. A key element for success is empowering children to value their own language and cultures, and those of their peers. Raising the profile of all languages has a positive impact on inclusion and well-being for students.

### **Vision**

All learners fully and implicitly access and can enjoy an education from early childhood to Year 13 that results in high levels of English proficiency, mastery of at least age-related expectations, and opportunities to develop proficiency in multiple languages and broad cultural understandings.

The aims of this policy are:

- To develop Island-wide approaches to the development of languages as a key to success in a globalised world
- To raise awareness of the benefits of cultural and linguistic diversity and champion its contribution to life in Jersey,
- To provide all children with equal opportunities to make progress with their learning through the languages of their choice
- To support and encourage the learning of non-traditional modern languages (beyond French/Spanish/German) and home and heritage languages (Jèrriais) as having equal value in a child's linguistic development
- To raise awareness in educational settings of the language-based learning needs of any subject, and ensure that all educators, irrespective of subject or specialisation, are equipped to support language development in their classes
- To provide a framework on which to base effective in-school policies that collectively form a consistent and collaborative Island-wide strategy

- To ensure that all parents and caregivers can access information on the education provisions for their children, including for language development, thus enabling them to support their children at home.

The Jersey Language Policy encompasses the following areas of language:

- **“ All students benefit from opportunities to learn languages spoken in their communities and internationally.”**
- **"English has been the language of instruction in Jersey schools since 1912 and, in an increasingly globalised world, it is imperative that our students have highly developed English language skills by the time they leave education and enter the workplace."**
- **“ The home language that each child brings to school with them is a critical element of their cognitive, emotional, social, and identity development.”**
- **“ Learning and speaking Jersey’s unique, indigenous Jèrriais language can instil a sense of belonging in islanders from all backgrounds, contributing to enhanced linguistic and cultural appreciation and potentially providing a pathway to other languages, particularly French.”**

What is the role of collaboration between stakeholders (students, parents, educators, the community, specialists in supporting the implementation of the Language Policy?

- a) The same key messages must be shared across all stakeholders to support the students’ language development.
- b) Sufficient resources and appropriate support strategies will be provided across all Key Stages for parents/caregivers to engage in their child’s learning.
- c) A flexible and considered approach to parents’/caregivers’ engagement will ensure that every parent/carer feels included.
- d) The establishment of a strong school-home-community network positively impacts on the students’ learning and self-esteem.
- e) Multilingual social communication between all stakeholders reinforces the diversity of the community that the schools serve.
- f) Schools reaching out to the wider community through events such as performances and charity events will reflect the identities and cultures of the school community.
- g) Settings will reflect the needs and languages of the community and be a place of accessibility for that community.
- h) Collaborations across services will provide all students with the opportunity to learn Jèrriais