

Extended foreign language teaching

Motto: "Communication in two foreign languages is a must"

The ability to speak two foreign languages is becoming a norm nowadays. Well-balanced and targeted attention of our school to help its pupils master two foreign languages is one of the assets of our system of work.

We teach languages in English or/and German focused groups.

Learning in an English focused group means that English is the first foreign language which pupils start learning in their first year of school, adding German as their second foreign language in the fifth year. Similarly, learning in a German focused group means that German is the first foreign language which pupils start learning in their first year, adding English as their second foreign language in the fifth year.

Our aim is for our pupils to master their first foreign language (English or German) at A2+ level (some pupils even reach B1-B2 level) and their second foreign language at A1-A2 level. .

SCATE test 2019/20 results:

36 pupils of year 9 took part in the test. 5% of pupils reached A1 level, 25% of pupils reached A2 level – the level expected for first foreign language on leaving primary school, 30% of pupils reached B1 level (the easier type of school-leaving exam) and 39% of pupils reached B2 level (more difficult form of school-leaving exam).

Choosing German as the first foreign language, which might be unusual in the Czech educational system, does not carry any risks.

Pupils working in smaller language groups are taught by qualified teachers.

Foreign languages teaching is supported by an increased number of lessons, including conversation classes, in the school's curriculum. In the afternoon, pupils can choose from language after-school activities, eg. English and German theatre, Art with English, practice for various exams and certificates or lessons helping with the second foreign language. Some of these activities are free of charge.

In the first two years, the first foreign language is taught twice a week, then three times a week in years 3 and 4. Our teachers use communicative forms of teaching based on games, songs, chants and elementary vocabulary supported by classbooks , activity books and other materials. In year 5, pupils start to learn their second foreign language and from then on they learn two foreign languages – English and German. Pupils have 3 lessons of each language a week, plus 1 lesson of conversation of each language a week in years 7 and 8. From year 6, pupils are divided into language groups according to their advancement and language skills. Pupils can change the group depending on their results. It is not unusual that gifted and hard-working pupils can be in the most advanced language groups in both languages and leave our school with at least A2 level in both German and English.

Our school has a long tradition of German language teaching. We belong among more than

1, 700 schools worldwide that also concentrate on teaching German. Since 1963, our excellent teachers have been proving that starting with German as the first language does not cause any problems, because after German, pupils cope with English very well. Nowadays, we are a preparing school for 2 grammar schools (Gymnázium Matyáše Lercha a Gymnázium Křenová), where our pupils can continue their German studies. After passing Deutsches Sprachdiplom, students of these grammar schools can study at universities in the German speaking countries. From the school year 2020/21 our pupils will be able to take Deutsches Sprachdiplom at our school free of charge.

Successful foreign language teaching is further supported by various activities, eg.:

- exchange stays in German speaking countries and educational trips to the UK
- long term practice for foreign language certificates (English – Starters, Movers, Flyers – YLE Cambridge, German - ÖSD Zertifikat A2 a ÖSD Zertifikat B, Deutsches Sprachdiplom)
- participation in various projects, eg. Edison Project (visits and English presentations of foreign university students), English Week or Projektwoche (intensive week courses provided by native speakers at our school)
- visits of theatre performances in English and German, reading of English and German books
- German penfriends, eg. a primary school in Leipzig
- participation in English language competitions (English Jungle, English Star, English conversation competition)
- our school organizes German language competition up to the district level