

# FIRST DIRECTIONS

The sooner children develop confidence in using a second language the easier it is to continue learning. In the 21st Century it is now more important than ever to be comfortable and confident in using a second language – and learning has to start young.

From Year 3 onwards all pupils are being expected to study a second language in the classroom and it is vital that a love of a second language is instilled in them throughout their early years.

Through fun, interactive activities First Directions gives pupils an awareness of the value of being comfortable in using modern foreign languages in work, rest and play. The overall aim is to build up confidence in communicating in a second tongue while learning new words and phrases.

A full day programme sees pupils working through a range of fun learning activities to build up their vocabulary and confidence in speaking French, Spanish or German.

Activities include:

- Singing and music
- Practicing the language of body parts
- Sorting activities
- Role play
- Focusing on hobbies
- Learning about languages around the world
- Bingo
- Looking at clothes and fashion
- Dining out – French, German or Spanish style

Using the increased confidence and expanded vocabulary developed through these activities pupils then work in teams to perform a short play which will focus on either a fashion show,

visit to a restaurant, shopping trip or vacation. So pupils are able to gain a real experience of how their classroom learning can help them in their real lives.

Business supporters, who reinforce the importance of foreign language to themselves and their companies, act as either group facilitators or deliver activities.

Throughout the day pupils work in teams with activities designed to improve key skills including communication, task management, team work, task prioritisation, meeting deadlines, listening to and taking instructions.

Education Business Connection provides:

- Pre-event discussions with schools to ensure that the focus of events builds upon pupils' classroom learning whilst extending their vocabulary and developing confidence and skills in the use of new foreign language phrases and sentences.
- Recruitment of businesses to deliver activities and to bring a world-of-work perspective to the day.
- Practical advice and guidance to companies on delivery of activities.
- An exciting and stimulating programme drawing out the importance of fluency in a modern foreign language in both a working and social/leisure context.
- Integration of key employability and enterprise education across the programme.
- Development of financial literacy and an awareness of the national and international economy.
- Full event organisation including arrangements for venues, transport and all related housekeeping aspects.
- Full post-event evaluation.