

Submission from Elizabeth Tobon

I was delighted to read about the above proposed approach to teaching languages in Scottish primary schools.

Having a bilingual son in P1 and daughter in nursery I cannot stress the importance I see in teaching languages to children as early as possible. Not only do they learn a language naturally but it makes them more open to learning additional languages as their education develops.

Although some teachers will have the ability and inclination to teach languages, not all will, and I believe that allowing either teaching assistants both native speakers and non native linguists into a school to assist with the teaching would be a valuable tool. In addition, many language experts (franchisees of childrens' language groups eg la jolie ronde, el club espanol) go in to schools in England to help teach according to the curriculum.

I believe that the younger the children, the more appropriate to introduce the language across the curriculum, via varied activities, for example in P.E., story telling, music etc and make it a natural extension of other subjects.

French, Spanish, German and Italian are always going to be useful languages to learn. Spanish is becoming increasingly more prevalent and covers a large population. Other languages could be introduced in areas where there is a requirement, eg Polish, Asian languages, or a demand e.g.Mandarin.