

UCML Executive Committee

Friday 29th April 2022 10am-12pm

Via MS Teams



Item 10.f: Schools Liaison report

GCSE

- **GCSE MFL (French, German, Spanish) Content**

In January 2022, the Department for Education (DfE) published the GCSE MFL (French, German, Spanish) Subject Content. As previously reported learned societies beyond the language community, headteacher associations and exam boards had raised their objections to proposals. The implementation of this policy change has been delayed to September 2024, i.e. first GCSE examination in Summer 2026. Main changes include:

- Subject content is described in terms of knowing vocabulary, grammar and principles by which spelling represents sounds
- Defined vocabulary list: 85% of this list to be taken from the top 2,000 high frequency words
- No prescribed themes
- Specified grammatical elements included in vocabulary lists
- All vocabulary and grammar covered by the Subject content to be known receptively and productively
- Assessment requirements include dictation and reading aloud a text
- Comprehension questions in English.

Relevant documents:

DfE MFL Subject Content: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-french-german-and-spanish-subject-content>

- **Ofsted Research Review**

The Language Learning Journal published in March an online special issue focusing on recent UK policy documents, in particular Ofsted's (2021) Curriculum Research Review for Languages and the GCSE Subject Content (DfE, 2022). For more information see the editorial:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09571736.2022.2046379>

Initial Teacher Training and Teacher Supply

This continues to be a major issue. In the ITT Census data for academic year 2021/22 shows that 37,069 trainee teachers enrolled in ITT courses. Teacher supply is continuous to be a major issue for the academic year 2022/23. There are considerations of increasing the bursary for Modern Languages for the next recruitment cycle.

Following the ITT Market Review, all ITT providers were asked to apply for reaccreditation. Most ITT providers submitted their reaccreditation documents in the first application window (early February). Some, including Cambridge University, have not. Last Friday, some institutions received notification to submit more evidence / documents. It is expected that providers will be informed by mid-May if they have been successful. If they weren't successful, they have an opportunity to resubmit in the second application window (June/July 2022).

As reported in the press, the announcement of the successful bidder of the Institute of Teaching has been delayed due to a potential legal challenge.

School White Paper: Opportunity for all strong schools with great teachers for your child"

This recently published White Paper (DfE, March 2022) sets out key priorities of the new Secretary of State for Education and his ministerial team. Key messages include: an excellent teacher for every child; delivering high standards of curriculum; behaviour and attendance; targeted support for every child who needs it (through tutoring); a stronger and fairer school system through all schools being part of 'a family of schools' by 2030. With regards to languages, the EBacc ambition is reconfirmed and from 2023 the DfE will be establishing a network of modern foreign language hubs.

In a round table earlier this week with the Minister for Schools and Standards, the EBacc ambition was reconfirmed, including increasing uptake of languages, including non-traditional languages. Primary languages, promoting the value of languages as well as teacher development and initial teacher training have been identified as further priorities.