

Spanish – Year 8

Curriculum Intent

In Year 8, Spanish builds on the secure phonics and grammatical foundations established in Year 7, developing greater accuracy, range and independence in language use. Students extend their understanding of verb patterns, sentence structure and word order while communicating across present, past and future time frames. The curriculum is carefully sequenced to strengthen grammatical control, expand vocabulary and support increasingly extended spoken and written responses, preparing students well for Year 9 and GCSE study.

What Students Will Study Across the Year

Autumn Term – Phonics Refinement and Sentence Accuracy

Students refine their understanding of Spanish phonics, focusing on syllable stress, accent placement and more complex sound–spelling correspondences. They consolidate present tense verb forms, including regular *-ar*, *-er* and *-ir* verbs, and revisit *ser* and *estar*. Students develop confidence using negation, plural nouns and subject pronouns, applying language to give personal information and express opinions.

Autumn and Spring Terms – Past Experiences and Word Order

Students are introduced to the **preterite tense**, learning to form and use regular past tense verbs accurately. They compare present and past actions and learn to recognise differences in meaning. Grammar is extended through question formation, use of common irregular verbs and accurate word order with time expressions. Language is applied to talking about travel, media, routines and daily life. Cultural learning includes festivals and life in Spanish-speaking countries.

Spring Term – Pronouns, Description and Opinion

Students develop understanding of direct and indirect object pronouns and begin to use them accurately in sentences. They work with *gustar*-type verbs to express likes, dislikes and feelings and extend their use of adjectives to describe people, relationships and experiences. Reading and listening activities increase in length and challenge, supporting comprehension for gist and detail.

Spring and Summer Terms – Time Frames and Extended Communication

Students extend use of the preterite tense and are introduced to the present continuous to describe actions happening now. They learn to ask questions about past events and compare what happened with what is happening. Sentence length and complexity increase through use of conjunctions and expanded structures. Cultural learning includes stories, traditions and celebrations from the Spanish-speaking world.

Summer Term – Consolidation and Fluency Development

The year concludes with consolidation of key phonics, grammar and vocabulary. Students apply learning to extended listening, reading, speaking and writing tasks, focusing on accuracy, fluency and independence.

Assessment and Progression

Assessment in Year 8 focuses on phonics accuracy, grammatical control across present and past time frames, vocabulary recall and the ability to adapt language independently. By the end of the year, students can communicate ideas with increasing precision, use past and present tenses accurately and respond confidently to unfamiliar language, providing a strong foundation for Year 9 Spanish.