

Press Release



BSL Curriculum for Primary and Secondary Schools Officially Launches

The BSL Curriculum Working Group are officially launching a first ever British Sign Language (BSL) Curriculum for Primary and Secondary Schools nationally. This curriculum will be rolled out across the UK on 1st December 2023.

This is a monumental occasion for us all who have worked towards producing a standardised curriculum for all schools to teach from.

Our journey towards establishing a comprehensive BSL Curriculum for Primary and Secondary schools began with a collaborative effort involving the Sign Bilingual Consortium during the summer of 2017. Recognising the need for a structured curriculum encompassing the linguistic features, historical context and cultural significance of BSL, our goal has been to ensure every Deaf child receives quality education, as is their right, utilising sign language. This initiative is equally significant for those learning sign language as a second language.

Initiating our plans in January 2018, we embarked on a 5-year journey, and we are thrilled to announce that our efforts have culminated in the completion of a curriculum spanning Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery) to Key Stage 4 (Year 11), ready for nationwide implementation from 2023.

British Sign Language (BSL) achieved official recognition as a language by the UK government on 18th March 2013, and later solidified its legal status as a language of Great Britain through the BSL Act 2022 ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)), marking a monumental achievement for the Deaf community. Building on this momentum, the BSL Curriculum Working Group is excited to roll out the BSL Curriculum on Friday 1st December 2023, for all schools nationally.

The launch will take place at: Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children, 4 Wollstonecraft Street, London, N1C 4BT.

We will have an exciting programme for the day with invited speakers to give talks on BSL, language acquisition, research and shared views/opinions from teachers and pupils learning BSL from schools.

There will be a range of officials, professionals, press and members of the Deaf and BSL community in attendance.

Date: 10th October 2023



For further information please contact:

Catherine Drew, Deputy Headteacher, Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children.

About Frank Barnes School

Frank Barnes School is a bilingual primary school for Deaf children based in the London Borough of Camden. It is the only one of its kind in London and offers classes across the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 and 2. This unique centre of excellence ensures that families from a range of different backgrounds and children from all over Greater London can learn, grow and flourish within a bilingual, bicultural philosophy.

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