WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION BY DEPUTY M.M. TADIER OF ST. BRELADE QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2024

Question

"Will the Minister advise whether there are any plans to offer Portuguese as a language option in the curriculum and as part of the normal school day for all students (including those who do not have Portuguese as a home language) alongside other language options?"

Answer

The Department currently have no plans to change the Jersey Curriculum for languages. However, our Government of Jersey schools enable pupils to access Portuguese lessons across Keys Stages 2, 3 and 4 in collaboration with the Camões Institute. In time these pupils then have the option to select to study for the GCSE in Years 10 and 11.

The Jersey Curriculum for languages requires all pupils in Key Stages 2 and 3 to study French and to learn an appreciation of the cultural influence of France on Jersey's heritage. This learning is built upon in secondary schools where pupils can also opt to study further languages (currently our schools offer Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, German and Mandarin).

CYPES' Language policy promotes multilingualism within its mission statement as below:

Mission

Jersey schools encourage, welcome and respond to a diverse range of language strengths, needs and identities, with the task of preparing students to leave school/college with the linguistic, academic, and social skills and competencies they require to become successful members of the community. A key element for success is empowering children to value their own language and cultures, and those of their peers. Raising the profile of all languages has a positive impact on inclusion and well-being for students.

Link to the Jersey Curriculum for languages

Link to CYPES Languages Policy