

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

12th - 18th February 2024



Should we learn sign language at school?

Fairfield High School



Let's look at this week's story

Pupils in England will have the choice to take a GCSE exam in British Sign Language (BSL) from 2025. BSL is a form of communication using hand gestures and other movements. Pupils, who take the subject, will learn around 1,000 different signs. Fairfield High School (pictured in this week's poster) already runs a successful extracurricular club in response to pupils' interest in learning BSL.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad

despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry

aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy

beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused

addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited

animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried

agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed

engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid

alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty

ashamed
compunctious
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous

bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful

appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked

astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted

affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired

activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

embarrassed

ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposd
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information below about the British Sign Language (BSL) GCSE exam.

What is the new sign language GCSE?

British Sign Language (BSL) is a form of communication that uses hand gestures and movements. A new GCSE qualification in BSL will be available for children in England from 2025.

For the exam, the pupils will learn around 1,000 different signs. They will also learn about the history of BSL and how it evolved into the language it is today.

The GCSE assumes no prior knowledge of BSL but will be accessible for students who use it as their first language.



I'm really excited for the GCSE news because I'm hoping that children like me will have a much better time fitting in at school. I'm also excited to be able to communicate with more people.

University of Manchester student
Amy Worrell, who is deaf.
Source: Amy Worrell.

Interesting Facts



According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide.



There are over 300 different sign languages globally and an estimated 150,000 people in the UK who use British Sign Language.

Would you like to learn BSL? What do you think are some of the benefits of knowing how to use sign language?



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about British Sign Language.

What is British Sign Language?

British Sign Language (BSL) is the most common form of sign language in Britain. It is a visual form of communication meaning we see it through body language, facial expressions and gestures (moving parts of the body, especially hands and head). It is mainly used by people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment.

In 2003, the UK government recognised BSL as an official minority language, which raised awareness of it and led to increased funding.

An example of another minority language is Welsh.



The letter W.

BSL Fingerspelling

Each letter of the alphabet has a sign so words can be spelt out using hand movements. This is used to spell out words where there is not a sign such as names of people and places.

Examples of some signs used for BSL



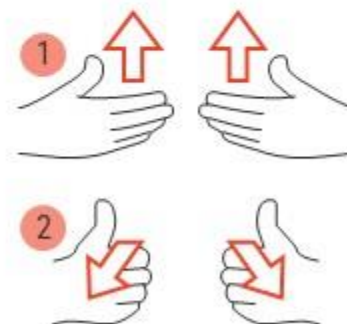
Hello/goodbye.



Sorry.



Thanks/please.



How are you?

Can you try communicating something using BSL?



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of life skills.

Time management

Prioritising tasks, knowing how much time to give a task, setting deadlines and knowing when to take a break.



Resilience

The ability to recover quickly from difficulties and problems.



Interpersonal skills

The skills needed to get on with and work with other people such as empathy, teamwork, good leadership, a positive attitude, managing conflict.

Problem-solving and decision-making

Understanding problems, finding solutions and then selecting the actions to address the problems.



Creative and critical thinking

Thinking in different and unusual ways - making ideas original and having good judgment.



Effective communication

Being able to exchange information with others through speaking, listening, writing, body language etc.

Literacy and numeracy

Reading, writing and numeracy skills.

Personal skills

Maintaining a healthy body and mind through learning to manage stress and anger, improving self-esteem, building confidence, exercising, eating a balanced diet.



**Which of these life skills do you believe you already learn at school?
Are there any you would like to do more of?**



Should we learn sign language at school?

Fairfield High School

Reflection



Learning how to communicate with others ensures inclusivity, helps to break down barriers and increases understanding between different communities.





Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Learning about the many different ways people communicate can help us celebrate our differences and respect one another.

Protected Characteristics



Our nationality or ethnic or national origins may affect the language we speak. We should never be treated unfairly because of our race.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



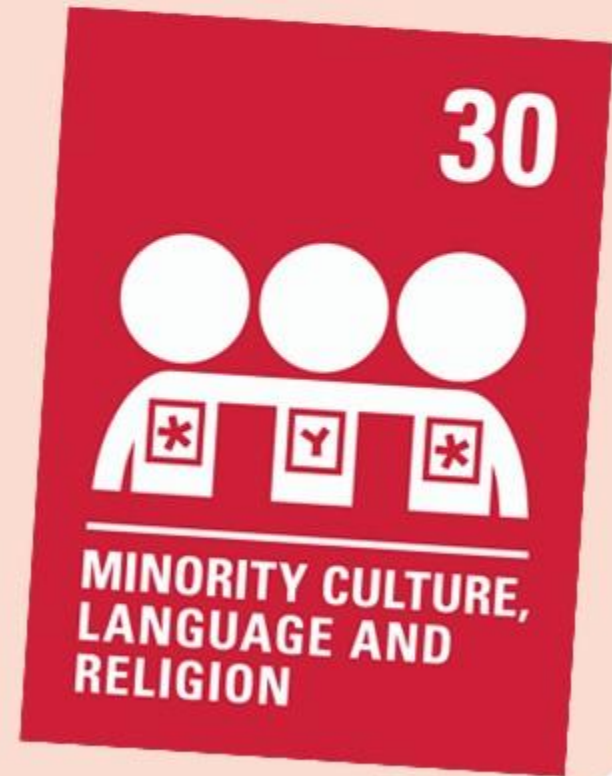
Religion
and Belief



UN Rights of a Child



We have the right to use our own language even if it is not shared by most people in the country where we live.



Useful vocabulary



Communicate

Share or exchange information, news, or ideas.

Talk about the positives of being able to or learning to **communicate** in different ways.

Evolved

Develops and changes gradually over time.

For the exam, the pupils will learn around 1,000 different signs. They will also learn about the history of BSL and how it **evolved** into the language it is today.

Exam

A test that you take to show your knowledge or ability in a subject, or to get a qualification.

Pupils in England will have the choice to take a GCSE **exam** in British Sign Language (BSL) from 2025.

Extracurricular

Not part of the usual school or college course.

Fairfield High School already runs a successful **extracurricular** club in response to pupils' interest in learning BSL.

Gestures

Moving parts of the body, especially hands and head.

BSL is a form of communication using hand **gestures** and other movements.

Inclusivity

Providing equal access and opportunities for all people.

Learning how to communicate with others ensures **inclusivity**.

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Picture News



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- Look at this week's poster image and share any experiences you have of sign language.
- Read the information found on the assembly resource about the BSL GCSE exam. Would you like to learn, or learn more BSL? What do you think are some of the benefits of knowing how to use sign language?
- Watch this week's useful video, which introduces BSL. Share some of the different signs used within the video.
- Are you learning any other languages or types of communication (either at school, at home or in a club)? What other languages are spoken by people at your school, or in your homes or communities?
- Do you enjoy learning new languages? Why?
- Have you ever experienced not being able to communicate with someone? Think about how it might feel when you are not understood or are unable to understand others. Talk about the positives of being able to or learning to communicate in different ways.

Reflection

Learning how to communicate with others ensures inclusivity, helps to break down barriers and increases understanding between different communities.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What is British Sign Language (BSL)?



- Write 'British Sign Language' on the board. Have you heard of this before? Have you used it to communicate with someone before or know somebody else who has?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some information about British Sign Language. Can you try communicating something using BSL?
- BSL is a minority language, which means it is a language that is used by a smaller number of the population. What language does the majority of the population in the UK use? What other languages are spoken where you live?
- There are many different languages used across the world. Can you make a list of different languages people may use? Do you speak another language? Share some words or phrases with each other.
- Think about your day so far. How have you communicated with other people? BSL uses body language, facial expressions and gestures. Have you communicated with anyone using any of these today? Have you waved at someone or shared a smile? What was this communicating?
- How might you communicate with somebody who doesn't speak the same language as you? Do you think it is important to try and learn different languages? Why?

Reflection

British Sign Language is a visual form of communication that uses body language, facial expressions and gestures. There are many different ways we can communicate with others. Learning a new language is one way to do this!

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KS2 focus

What life skills could we learn at school?



- Make a list of the things you learn at school. Does your list contain subjects such as maths, PE, science? Do you learn about friendships, sharing, being kind? Are they on your list? Is there anything on the list you would describe as a skill?
- A skill is the ability to do an activity or job well, often because it has been practised. What skills do you think you have e.g., writing skills, football skills, cooking skills? Can you tell someone else what their skills are?
- Communication is a life skill. It is something we need to fully participate in everyday life. Can you think of anything else that could be described as a life skill?
- Look at resource 2, which shares some examples of life skills. Which do you believe you already learn at school? Are there any you would like to do more of?
- Which of the life skills from resource 1 are your strengths and which would you like to develop further? Discuss how and where you might learn these skills besides school e.g., at home, at a club, online, a TV or a book.
- It has been argued that the most important life skill of all is having a willingness and want to learn. Do you agree with this? Why? Do you think having a willingness to learn may get harder as you get older? Do you think some people want to learn more than others? Do you want to learn?

Reflection

There are so many opportunities for us to learn. Being open and willing to learn can help us cope with challenges, be happy and open up our world.

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KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Effective communication is a valuable life skill. It can provide you with more opportunities and open up your world!

- How does being able to communicate effectively open up your world?
- What does effective communication mean to you?

Create a piece of art to display what being able to communicate means to you. You could use the illustrations below for inspiration if needed. Think about:

- What colours and tones will you use?
- Will you include images or will you represent communication through line and shape?
- What medium will your work be? Digital, paint, print, pencil, textile?

Remember, it is your representation of communication, which may be very different from somebody else's!



Option 2

Design a questionnaire to find out what languages are spoken in your school community. Include children, members of staff and adults at home. Think about:

- What information is needed?
- Who will I get the information from?
- How will I get the information?
- What questions will I ask?
- What order will I put the questions in?

Send out your questionnaire. Once you receive them back, consider how you can analyse and feedback the results.

- What can you learn from the data?
- Is there a language you would like to learn?
- Is there anyone who has any language expertise you could utilise?

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KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

(You can find printable resources on www.british-sign.uk for greetings and fingerspelling).

Use this opportunity to learn some British Sign Language. Before you begin, consider the following:

- Do you know anyone who uses BSL who might be able to teach you?
 - Does anyone in your school already know any signs?
- Look at the greetings and fingerspelling resources.
- Can you welcome someone?
 - Can you thank someone?
 - Can you spell out your name?
 - Ask a friend to fingerspell a place. What place did they sign?

Option 2

Explore how we communicate now and how people communicated in the past. Think about:

- How do you keep in touch with people?
- Have you ever used a mobile phone to message, call or video call someone?
- Have you ever posted a letter?
- How do you think people sent a message before telephones were invented?
- Have you ever heard of Morse code? Can you find out what it is?
- How long do you think people have been communicating and learning through books?

Challenge – how many different ways can you communicate with someone this week?

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This week's useful websites

This week's news story

www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/im-hoping-children-like-much-28417931

This week's useful video

BSL: The Very Basics

<https://youtu.be/XigcNBFG1u4>

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

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New Books for Royal Doll House

Queen Mary's Doll's House is 100 years old this year! To celebrate, its library has been updated with a collection of miniature books written by some of today's most famous authors. The initiative, led by Queen Camilla, has created a modern-day miniature book collection within the doll house's library. Twenty authors, including Sir Tom Stoppard, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Sir Ben Okri, Bernardine Evaristo and Julia Donaldson, contributed to the project by each producing a 4.5cm high mini handwritten book to add to the library. The Queen has even penned one herself! The books are on display, alongside the scaled-down replica of an Edwardian-style royal residence, at Windsor Castle throughout 2024. The doll house that was gifted to Queen Mary has electricity, running water and even working lifts. All the books in the original miniature library, around 175, are real books, handwritten by leading authors of the 1920s such as A.A. Milne, Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle and Vita Sackville-West. The Queen called the library, 'the most breath-taking space in the house', adding, 'These new books highlight the incredible richness of twenty-first



Pictured: Books from the new miniature book collection and Queen Mary's Doll's House. **Source:** Royal Collection Trust @RCT X page.

century literary talent - and demonstrate how fortunate we are to have access to so many outstanding writers, whose work brings joy, comfort, laughter, companionship and hope to us all, opening our eyes to others' experiences and reminding us that we are not alone.'

Historic Hedgerows

A new map has revealed that there are enough hedges in England to reach around the world ten times! The hedgerow map was created using low-flying aircraft that scanned the ground with sensors that emitted pulses of light to create 3D images, providing precise information on the quantity, length, and height of hedges below. The whole of England was scanned between 2016 and 2021 to produce the map. Scientists at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) announced that there was a total of 390,000km of fully grown field hedges in England. The information gathered has been used to provide the first accurate map of the hedgerow network across the country. The highest density of hedges are found in Cornwall, Somerset, and Derbyshire. Dr Richard Broughton, leader of the project said, 'The new map enables us to see where hedgerows are sparse and identify sites for targeted planting and restoration efforts, linking up habitats and improving the hedgerow network. It can also be used to estimate the potential amount of carbon that hedgerows could remove from the atmosphere and store.' Researchers believe that the map will help focus efforts to restore the country's hedges - it is estimated that there were twice as many in the 1940's. They say this is important to increase biodiversity, as



Pictured: Map of England showing hedgerow densities by area. **Source:** UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology @UK_CEH X page.



Pictured: A view over fields in Widescombe in the Moor, England. **Source:** Canva.

hedges contain many different kinds of plants. Hedges also provide a home for many species of wildlife and aid in the fight against climate change. Furthermore, they can reduce air pollution and even improve soil quality! **Do you know any other benefits of growing more hedges?** **Alternatively, can you think of any drawbacks?**

Jumbo Jump

Jumbo Jump in Karachi, Pakistan, is now officially home to the largest inflatable castle in the world! The massive bouncy castle measures 1,421m² and an astounding 200 people can jump on it at once. Jumbo Castle, as it is named, is part of the popular tourist attraction that also contains other inflatables, including another smaller bouncy castle with ball pits, hoops and climbing towers, and an assault course over 30 metres long. There are also 'jaw-dropping' 12-metre-high slides and a photo booth. Karachi is the capital city of the Pakistani province of Sindh. Over 20 million people live there, and it is the largest city in Pakistan. The brightly coloured bounce house only takes ten minutes to fully inflate but it took six months to plan and design, ensuring it met safety guidelines and had record-breaking dimensions. Safeer Khan, Founder of Jumbo Jump, said, 'We believe in creating moments that go beyond the ordinary and breaking the world record for the largest jumping castle at Jumbo Jump is a testament to our commitment to delivering unparalleled joy and entertainment in Pakistan. Our success is not just measured in numbers but in the smiles, laughter, and shared experiences of the communities we serve. Jumbo Jump is not just an event; it's a celebration of the extraordinary, and we look forward to continuing our journey of breaking records and creating memories that last a lifetime.'



Pictured: Jumbo Jump in Karachi, Pakistan. **Source:** Guinness World Records @GWR X page.

Have you ever bounced or played on a bouncy castle?

Would you like to go on one this large?

Last week's topic: Is fashion important?



What's the point in fashion? It DOES make people look good though. But the money used could go to other things, better things ...(I am not a fan of fashion).

Daniel

No, I can wake up and be in my PJs and be beautiful, so yes, I think fashion is not important.

Hollie

I don't think fashion is important very much to me.

James

I think that fashion is not that important because everyone is perfect just the way they are.

Lyla

Let us know what you think about this week's news?



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TAKEHOME



Should we learn
sign language at school?

Fairfield High School

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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Have you ever used sign language or seen it being used by others?
- > Is sign language a language you would like to learn? What do you think are some of the advantages of learning sign language?
- > Are there any other skills or subjects you believe would be useful to learn at school?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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