

GILLIAN ALI

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am a highly organised Modern Foreign Language teacher with a professional reputation for designing lessons that satisfy differing learning styles and educational needs. I am an energetic team builder and leader able to navigate high-stress situations and achieve goals on time. I offer expertise in syllabus development and staff training. I am skilled in communicating effectively and respectfully with pupils, parents, colleagues, and other stakeholders.

WORK HISTORY

08/2015 to current

MFL Teacher/Coordinator for French and Spanish

OLGA, Cathedral PS, Motherwell

I have sole responsibility for teaching French and Spanish across all stages. I have devised a new primary languages syllabus based upon story-telling. This methodology ensures that new learning is fully contextualised whilst previous learning is more deeply embedded through the recycling of language within the new context. I have produced a Teacher's Guide (for non-specialist classroom teachers), a progression chart with overview of links to the Scottish Government Policy - Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach. My 'Excellent Curriculum Floor-book' is annually appraised by SMT and provides evidence of pupil engagement, attainment, and progression. My approach to Modern Language teaching received special commendation from my HT who conducted impromptu learning walks in preparation for a VSE visit carried out by North Lanarkshire Council in November 2019. The lessons were deemed innovative and inspirational. I have led family French sessions for parents and carers. This has afforded me the opportunity to showcase pupils' abilities as well as involve carers in the learning process. I have worked in partnership with several schools in Europe and South America to collaborate on projects of intercultural and linguistic interest. My role as MFL coordinator also involves motivating, enthusing, and supporting my colleagues as well as keeping them informed of MFL policy developments. I achieve this through professional dialogue and monthly drop-in sessions. I also introduced pupil Language Ambassadors to support staff engagement with language teaching and to promote the profile of language learning through whole-school challenges and cultural activities.

05/2020

Associate Tutor for SCILT

To support the learning and teaching of French to Scottish schools online via e-Sgoil, alongside the SCILT Primary team as part of the National Response Programme. I was a speaker at the Bilingualism Matters webinar.

08/1991 to 12/2014

Teacher of French and German

Kelvinside Academy, Glasgow

As a classroom teacher I was responsible for delivering a Broad General Education in French and German to S1-S3 classes. Through team-teaching and self-reflection, I prepared effective lessons that supported and challenged learners. I assessed pupil progress through devising and marking end of term assessments, report writing and liaising with parents. I was also responsible for the rigorous preparation of exam classes in both languages up to and including Advanced Higher. To develop my leadership skills, I ran lunch time supported study classes for pupils who required assistance or added challenge in their learning. I organised a trip to Berlin for my last Advanced Higher German class to enhance their understanding of the History of the city. The trip was a huge success and Berlin became their specialist subject for the external oral exam. The results for the four pupils were exemplary – 2 A grades and 2 B grades.

I remain a member of a prominent online secondary forum: specialising in mentorship to newly qualified MFL teachers. This provides opportunities to share my expertise and vision for language teaching as a means of bridging the poverty-related attainment gap. I also recently developed a Virtual Classroom as a strategy for supporting pupils with languages within a blended learning environment. I offered this to North Lanarkshire Council during lockdown.

SKILLS

Professionalism: proficient in building effective working relationships.

Subject knowledge: teaching across all ages with an excellent knowledge of national priorities and current MFL policies.

Enthusiasm: communicating a true passion for teaching languages and a fervent belief in their value in a multicultural Scotland.

Creativity: striving constantly to improve the teaching and learning experience through professional enquiry into the most up-to-date MFL evidence-based research and practices.

Communication skills: a natural ability to identify key learning elements and propagate them successfully.

Team Player: sharing knowledge and encouraging the development of others through team-teaching and professional dialogue.

ICT Skills: proficient in Office 365 applications, SmartBoard technology, PowerPoint, Glow, Microsoft Teams and Vscene. I use a full range of ICT to underpin the production and implementation of language learning activities which aid and consolidate learning.

EDUCATION

1990

Master of Arts (with Hons): French and German
University of Glasgow - Glasgow

1991

Post Graduate Certificate of Education
St. Andrew's College of Education - Glasgow

AFFILIATIONS

Professional:

GTC (Full Registration)

CERTIFICATIONS

SCILT Critical Friend (GTCS Professional Recognition ongoing)

Child Protection CPD (ongoing yearly)

1+2 Language Leadership Programme 2019 (GTCS Professional Recognition)

Colourful Semantics Training 2018

Solihull Approach Certification 2017

Rainbow Bereavement Support Certification 2016

MLPS Spanish Certification 2016

TEFL Certification 2015