



**STOUR VALLEY**  
— COMMUNITY SCHOOL —

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Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

14 November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The Department for Education's Home, Heritage and Community Language Group has asked schools to conduct a survey regarding languages other than English spoken in the home and the local community.

We would be grateful if you would respond to the attached Google form to indicate if your child speaks an additional language. We would also like to gauge if there are many students who would be able to achieve an additional qualification in a Home, Heritage and Community Language (HHCL).

We would appreciate a response by Friday 22 November 2024, please. Here is the link to the survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/H1aWBqKYKF?origin=lprLink>

We have provided some FAQs below if you would like to know more about HHCL.

Should you require any further information, please contact Mrs Magowan at [lmagowan@stourvalley.org](mailto:lmagowan@stourvalley.org)

Yours faithfully

Mrs Magowan  
Head of Languages

## FAQs

### Terminology

1. What do we mean by home, heritage and community languages? There is often confusion between the different terms used to describe languages other than English. The different terms can carry different meanings and significance. The following definitions are offered to help clarify what each term means.



2. Who are heritage speakers in the UK? Languages other than English used in daily life at home, in school and in local communities are known as home, heritage and community languages. They include languages such as Arabic, French, German, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Urdu, Yoruba and many more languages from across the world. 3. What is a home language? Building on the UNESCO definition, a home language is a language learned in childhood in the home environment.

3. Are national examinations available in these languages? In some, not all. There are 19 languages GCSEs available in England (excluding ancient languages). These are offered in Arabic, Bengali, Mandarin Chinese and Cantonese, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Modern Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Panjabi, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Urdu. Advanced Level examinations are available in the following languages: French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Modern Greek, Modern Hebrew, Japanese, Panjabi, Persian, Portuguese, Polish, Turkish and Urdu

### **The importance of Home, Heritage and Community Languages in the UK**

The UK has a multilingual and diverse population, multiple languages are used and are needed across public and private sectors and civil society as a whole. The ability to speak more than one language and to be culturally flexible makes a valuable contribution to all aspects of human relations, domestically and internationally. Language and intercultural competence are of particular value to diplomacy and international relations, negotiations and conflict resolution; the economy and transnational business.

Speaking each other's languages supports social cohesion and sociability; a sense of selfhood and mutual understanding. Languages are a key part of a vision for facilitating a healthy society in which people are effective and empathetic communicators, confident to connect with others, open to exploring different perspectives and seeing beyond their own opinions and points of view, culturally curious, interested in diversity, and willing to understand each other.

