

# Language Cafe

## FAQs

### **Why do we need the Multilingual Café?**

Bristol is a multilingual place. Sometimes languages can be seen as a barrier, but they can also be an opportunity to connect with others and develop belonging. The idea of the Multilingual Café is to bring together local people who have an open mind and are curious about languages, as well as dialects.

### **What languages will be used in the MC sessions?**

We will use English as the main common language. But we will also draw on languages that the group members can use themselves, and any other languages and dialects the group may be interested in.

### **Can I attend if my first language is English?**

Everyone is welcome, as long as you are curious about languages and dialects.

### **What level of English do I need to attend?**

A basic level of spoken and written English is an advantage, as it is the common language, we use in the group. However, we can be creative and use translation software, dictionaries, etc. to enable understanding.

### **Do I need to be able to speak foreign languages to attend?**

It would be great if you do, but foreign language skills are not required. The only thing you need is an interest in learning more about language(s) and dialects that local and international people use. Perhaps you have friends, neighbours or family who use other languages.

### **Is it an advantage to be a speaker of two or more languages or dialects?**

We welcome local people who can use other languages a little bit or very well. Perhaps you speak Bristolian or Glaswegian, perhaps you have studied French at school, or your first language is Italian or Chinese and you are learning English now. We can explore all these languages and varieties, and more!

### **What can I expect to happen in the Multilingual Café?**

Depending on the interests in the group, we will use activities to explore, compare, and discuss what languages mean to us and others around you. We will use creative methods (e.g. posters or recordings) to present languages, so that we – and others – can see and hear them. We can share our feelings and experiences with languages and language learning.

### **What will not happen in the Multilingual Café?**

The Multilingual Café is not an English language class. Even though English can be practised. Likewise, it is not a foreign language class, even though some languages can be practised.

### **Who leads the activities?**

Gaby is a local resident who has made multilingualism her job. She has worked with schools and other groups and is very excited to explore multilingualism with people in the local area.