

Modern Foreign Language – French Curriculum Statement



Our Mission Statement: 'Love one another'

Our Learning Values: 'Practice makes perfect'

P – pride

R – resilience

A – aspiration

C – creativity

T - teamwork

I – independence

C – curiosity

E – engagement

KS2 National Curriculum Expectations

Pupils should be taught to:

- listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding;
- explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words;
- engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help;
- speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures;
- develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases;
- present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences;
- read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing;
- appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language;
- broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary;
- write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly;
- describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing;
- understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, including (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms and the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English.

Curriculum Intentions

Our curriculum offers a carefully planned sequence of units and lessons, ensuring progressive coverage of the skills required by the National Curriculum. Introductory units – Where is France? Where in the world speaks French? French Festivals and French History - provide an exposure to French culture, nationally and internationally. These cultural units aim to foster children’s curiosity and help them deepen their understanding of the world.

A linear curriculum has been chosen to allow opportunity for children to gradually build on their skills. Our chosen scheme of work fully enables children to express their ideas and thoughts in French and provides opportunities to interact and communicate with others, both in speech and in writing. At the heart of curriculum is the desire to expose children to French authenticity and lessons offer regular opportunities to listen to native speakers. In Lower KS2, children acquire basic skills and understanding of French with a strong emphasis placed on developing Speaking and Listening skills. These skills are embedded and developed further in Upper KS2, alongside a greater focus on Reading and Writing. Throughout Key Stage Two, children gradually progress onto more complex language concepts and greater learner autonomy. We intend to inspire pupils to develop a love of languages and to expand their horizons to other countries, cultures and people. We aim to help children grow into curious, confident and reflective language learners and to provide them with a foundation that will equip them for further language studies.

Aims

- All children in KS2 learn French during Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, developing their language-learning knowledge and skills incrementally.
- Our French curriculum is relevant, broad and ambitious which inspires and excites our pupils through a wide variety of topics and themes.
- Children have opportunities in all learning units to develop speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.
- Children will build their French vocabulary, phonics and grammar skills throughout their language learning so that they can accurately begin to read, write and speak French.
- Children will become life-long language learners, developing a love of languages and positive attitudes to continue study at secondary school.
- Pupils will develop a genuine interest and positive curiosity about foreign languages, finding them enjoyable and stimulating.
- Children will develop a deeper understanding of other cultures and the world around them with a better awareness of self, others and cultural differences.
- Children will make new links in their schema with existing knowledge. Units have been sequenced to allow for consolidation, extending learning and retrieval.
- Children will have the opportunity to take part in interactive activities (e.g. through themed days), such as cooking French recipes and visiting virtual museums and galleries.

Curriculum Implementation

Units and lessons are sequenced so that prior learning is considered and opportunities for revision of language and grammar are built upon. Resources are consistently used during lessons to help children build on prior knowledge alongside the introduction of new skills. We follow the suggested learning sequence of the scheme of work, providing teachers with structure and context. Each year, introductory units offer an insight into the culture of French-speaking countries and communities. Revising and learning new vocabulary and grammatical structures also features in every lesson. Vocabulary is included in display materials, presentations and knowledge organisers so that children have opportunities to repeat or revise learning. Our scheme of work is designed by language specialists, including French native speakers, so teachers have full confidence in the teaching materials they use. Planning and lessons feature accurate language, detailed subject knowledge and accompanying audio and video materials to fully engage the children.

Summary

- Our scheme of work is used to deliver learning in line with National Curriculum expectations for a Modern Foreign Language (French). It ensures that children have opportunities to learn, practice and embed skills in the areas of reading, speaking, listening and writing.
- The units taught to each year group are progressive and build on the vocabulary, skills and knowledge that the children have previously been taught. Year 3 and 4 children learn intermediate language units. Year 5 and 6 children learn progressive language units.
- Key vocabulary is explicitly taught to children as part of quality-first teaching and oral language acquisition and rehearsal is a key part of learning French in all units. Key vocabulary is displayed around classrooms, during videos and on presentations and knowledge organisers. This supports children to build their own personal vocabulary banks.
- Phonics and grammar are embedded within the lessons and draw children's attention to correct pronunciation and differences between French and English.
- Units are taught discretely, but where possible, make links with learning in other curriculum areas. For example, Year 5 learn French vocabulary about 'Seasons and Space,' which adds to the knowledge acquired about 'Earth and Space' in Science. This provides opportunities for retrieval and building connections.
- Within a teaching sequence, there are opportunities for children to learn more about an aspect of French culture. This may include lifestyle, key influential figures and landmarks, supporting children's understanding of the culture and country in which French originates, building their cultural capital and awareness and tolerance of other people and places.

Curriculum Impact

Using the full range of scheme resources, including display materials, will increase the profile of languages across school. The learning environment will be consistent with key French vocabulary displayed, spoken and used by all learners. Whole-school and parental engagement will improve through the use of language-specific home learning tasks and opportunities suggested in lessons and overviews for wider learning. We want to ensure that French is loved by teachers and pupils across school, therefore encouraging them to embark on further language studies. Impact will be measured through questioning built into lessons, teacher-led assessments (formed from observations and marking) and summative assessments aimed at targeting next steps in learning.

- Children will enjoy learning French and will be able to demonstrate increasingly proficient skills in the four aspects of language learning – speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- All children will be working at the expected standard in French, with some working at greater depth.
- Children’s confidence when reading, writing and speaking French will be high and they will engage in all classroom activities.
- Work in children’s books will demonstrate their developing understanding of French.
- Pupil’s will speak enthusiastically about their French learning and articulate what they are learning and why it is important.
- Children will enjoy and value French and know why it is important to be learning it.
- Children will have a growing understanding of the context of France and about some of the people and things that make it great.
- Children will be enthused to continue their language learning at secondary school and will become lifelong language learners.
- The French curriculum will contribute to children’s personal development including their awareness of other cultures and languages and providing opportunities for looking at life beyond the UK.

