

Introduction

We believe that a Modern Foreign Language prepares pupils to participate in a rapidly changing world, in which work and other activities are often carried out in languages other than English. Children will be encouraged to develop lifelong language learning skills, skills that they will be able access in the future to help them to learn new languages or to improve their competence in an existing language. Increased capability in the use of MFL promotes initiative, confidence and independent learning, as well as encouraging diversity within society.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are:

- To foster an interest in learning other languages;
- To introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- To make young children aware that language has a structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- To help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- To develop their speaking and listening skills;
- To lay the foundations for future study.

Organisation

KS2 children have a regular thirty minutes lesson of modern foreign language a week, in order to ensure progression and skills development.

The curriculum

French is the modern foreign language that is taught in our school. The curriculum that is followed is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum.

The children are taught to know and understand how to:

- Ask and answer questions;
- Use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- Memorise words;
- Interpret meaning;
- Understand basic grammar;
- Use dictionaries;
- Work in pairs and groups, and communicate in French;
- Look at life in another culture.

During French sessions, children are given the opportunity to work as a class, as individuals and as part of a group. The choice of class organisation is determined by the learning task. By its nature, MFL will involve lots of interaction with visual, auditory and kinaesthetic prompts.

Programme of study:

Years 3 & 4

During Years 3 & 4, pupils are taught basic vocabulary and greetings in order to develop confidence and provide a firm grounding in pronunciation and accent. Through a combination of oral and written activities, children will learn:

- *Letters of the alphabet – An introduction to pronunciation and accent.
- *Numbers 1-100 – Taught in conjunction with basic numeracy activities.
- *How old are you? – Numbers contextualised through basic conversation practice.
- *Basic greetings “My name is” etc. – Children will build confidence by engaging in oral activities with peers.
- *Colours of the rainbow – Children will participate in group activities through rhyme and song.
- *Days of the week, months of the year, seasons – Flashcard games are used in whole class teaching and by children in independent groups.
- *Body parts – Flashcards and labelling activities are used in conjunction with oral activities.
- *Do you have any pets? – Further conversational skills are developed through learning about animals.
- *Family – Children will participate in oral vocabulary activities and apply in basic conversation with partners.
- *Sports – Children will start to express opinions based on vocabulary learnt in this topic.

Years 5 & 6

During years 5 & 6, children will continue to develop conversational French, building on knowledge brought forward from Years 3 & 4. A further emphasis will be placed on writing and basic grammar. Through a combination of oral and written activities, children will learn:

- *Weather – Oral activities start to encompass useful, everyday French.
- *Places in town – Contextualised through use of flashcards of ‘Our Town’, this vocabulary can be built upon with further conversational French.
- *Asking for directions – Further developing vocabulary from ‘Places in town’.
- *What time is it? – Numbers are revised and used in numeracy-based activities to tell the time.
- *Then and now – Children will learn about grammatical differences outlining past and present tenses.
- *How much is it? – Further revision of numbers in a practical application.
- *Food, likes and dislikes – Children will express opinions about food and learn about some French favourites.
- *In school – Vocabulary taught within this topic will allow children to give tours of the school in basic French.