



Birdsedge

First School

MfL Policy - French

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Intent

Rationale for Modern Foreign Language in our school curriculum

At Birdsedge First School we feel that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for the pupils. It supports the development of communication and literacy skills, including speaking and listening, that then lay the foundation for future language learning.

Learning a second (or third in some cases) language also extends the pupils knowledge of how language works, exploring the differences and similarities between French and English. Learning another language raises awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduces an international dimension to pupils' learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others. The learning of a foreign language provides a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of French Primary Language teaching at Birdsedge First School are to:

- Foster an interest in language learning by introducing children to other languages in a way that is enjoyable and accessible to all pupils;
- Stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language and creativity in experimenting with it;
- Support oracy and literacy, and in particular develop speaking and listening skills;
- Help children develop their awareness of cultural similarities and differences;

- Lay the foundations for future language study by pupils;
- Provide an added perspective on first language teaching and learning;
- Give an extra dimension to teaching and learning across the curriculum.

Over time, the children are taught how to:

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

Implementation

Organisation

French is enjoyed by all pupils in Key Stage Two at Birdsedge First School. The children are taught specific skills, concepts and vocabulary in a weekly dedicated session, with opportunity to practice and consolidate their skills at other times during the school week, registration for example. This integrated approach allows teachers to develop learning on a little-and-often basis and provides children with the opportunity to use and develop their language for communicating in stress-free, real-life contexts. Teaching follows regular routines with songs and games that our children find enjoyable and motivating.

Children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will be introduced to French through practical speaking and listening games and songs.

Primary language learning provides a basis for teaching and learning about other cultures and this may be incorporated into many areas of the curriculum including Personal, Health, Social and Emotional education and Citizenship, Geography, Religious Education, Design and Technology, Art and Dance.

The non-specialist staff teach French and use the advice, skills and support of Advanced Skilled Teachers, proficient and French-native members of our school community and network links with similar schools and middle schools in our pyramid.

Impact

Our Modern Foreign Language curriculum ensures that children develop their knowledge of where different languages are spoken in the world. Our curriculum is fun and enjoyed by learners, well-resourced and planned to demonstrate progression through Key Stage 2. In addition, we measure the impact of our curriculum through:

- Pupil discussions about their learning;
- Monitoring and reflection against subject-specific skills defined in each year of study;
- Children applying their knowledge of language to other areas of the curriculum;
- Children applying their cultural understanding and tolerance across society and cultures.

The curriculum and planning

Following the National Curriculum and working alongside the MAST Academy Trust (including the two middle schools), Key Stage 2 teachers along with French-natives plan, teach and resource as a team and will continue to support and develop the children's skills and understanding as French becomes embedded in our curriculum.

As children come through from the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 with confidence and enjoyment of simple speaking and listening skills in French, Key Stage 2 teachers will adjust their planning to suit.

Planning and resources in Key Stage 2 will follow the archived Rigolo scheme of work. Rigolo 1 is aimed at Years 3 and 4. Rigolo 2 is aimed at Years 5 and 6. Planning and resources such as worksheets are found on the school server. Interactive resources are found online at <http://rigolo.lgfl.org.uk/default.htm>

French teaching in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 will be very practical and will be focused on speaking and listening games and songs.

Assessment

Teachers assess children's progress informally during the lessons, evaluating progress against the Key Stage 2 MFL Framework. Progression will be measured through skill levels and not by knowledge of lists of vocabulary.

The Key Stage 2 MFL Framework Learning Objectives are split into the following categories:

- Oracy – listening and speaking;
- Literacy – reading and writing;
- Knowledge about language;
- Intercultural Understanding and Contact;
- Language learning strategies.

Assessment opportunities are presented within the Rigolo scheme of work at the end of every two units. The assessments are comprised of four sections:

- Listening activities;
- Speaking activities;
- Reading activities;
- Writing activities.

Equal opportunities

At Birdsedge First School, we are committed to promoting equal opportunities irrespective of socio-economic background, gender, disability and ethnicity in all areas of the curriculum. We believe all children should have access to and participate in the learning of languages and to be supported in this process.

Inclusion

At Birdsedge First School, we teach a modern foreign language to all children in Key Stage 2. A modern foreign language forms part of the school's commitment to providing a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all children to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Teachers ensure full involvement and engagement within lessons and the efforts and achievements of all children in the subject are celebrated.

Transition

Birdsedge First School work closely with our local middle schools to ensure a positive and productive transition is achieved. Planning and resources are discussed through networking with Scissett Middle School, including with French natives. Expectations are developed so that children from each feeder school for SMS have developed the basic fundamental skills to help them achieve in Year 6.

Role of the Subject Leader

Recorded outcomes which link directly to speaking and listening tasks are recorded in the back of children's topic books, in a reverse chronological order. These books are monitored termly by the subject leader to ensure coverage. The coordination and planning of the MFL curriculum are the responsibility of the subject leader, who also:

- Supports colleagues in their teaching, by keeping them informed about current developments in MFL;
- Writes a subject action plan, informed by the whole school development plan;
- Observes and gives feedback to teachers on their teaching of French;
- Attends meetings with specialist staff from the local middle schools;
- Sources resources and stores them centrally on the school servers.

Resources

Our school resources include:

- The archived Rigolo scheme of work;
- PDFs of worksheets and flashcards linked to the scheme;
- Online interactive resources linked to the scheme <http://rigolo.lgfl.org.uk/default.htm>;
- Some English and French story books;
- Online resources such as the Alain Le Lait videos on youtube;
- A central bank of resources on the school server.