



**DARWEN
ST JAMES**

FRENCH



**Nurturing ambition
through a living faith
in French at Darwen
St James' is...**



Nurture

At Darwen St James', we believe primary children flourish when learning a modern foreign language early, as they are naturally curious and uninhibited when speaking aloud. We nurture oral confidence through a high-support, low-anxiety environment where mistakes are celebrated as learning steps. Guided by our adaptive teaching policy, we ensure every child—including those with SEND—accesses French through visual supports, Widgit symbols, dual-coding, physical gestures, and audio tools like talking tins.

Ambition

We hold high linguistic expectations for every pupil across Key Stage 2. Delivering 60 minutes of weekly instruction every other half term via the Kapow French scheme, we drive ambition from isolated vocabulary into authentic sentence building, grammatical understanding (gender, verbs, word order), and confident phonics. Pupils take pride in using bilingual dictionaries independently, decoding authentic texts, and achieving strong foundations for Key Stage 3 and lifelong language acquisition.

Faith

Our curriculum lives out our five core values: perseverance, courage, hope, love, and friendship. Guided by 1 John 3:18, we teach that language is an act of Christian empathy and connection. Speaking French aloud requires real courage and vulnerability; tackling grammar demands perseverance; and collaborative pair work, choral recitation, and role-plays foster mutual support, patience, and love for our classroom community.

Citizens

Language learning provides liberation from insularity, opening doors to other cultures and deepening understanding of God's wider world. Children explore France and the Francophone world, appreciating diverse customs, traditions, and perspectives. By learning to communicate with clarity, respect, and curiosity, we prepare our pupils to step out into society as open-minded, articulate, and compassionate global citizens.

Curriculum Intent, Implementation & Impact Statement



Intent

To learn a foreign language, at Darwen St James we study French through the **Kapow** scheme, which is a valuable introduction to other cultures and deepens their understanding of the world.

- To enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing.
- To ensure that pupils understand and respond to spoken and written language in French.
- To encourage pupils to speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation.
- To enable pupils to write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt.
- To discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied through the **Kapow** Scheme of Work.

Implementation

In line with the National Curriculum, through the **Kapow** scheme, pupils at Darwen St James will be taught to:

- **Listen and Respond:** Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding.
- **Explore Patterns:** Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words.
- **Engage in Dialogue:** Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help.
- **Speak in Sentences:** Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures.
- **Pronunciation & Intonation:** Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases.
- **Present Ideas:** Present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences.
- **Read with Understanding:** Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing.
- **Appreciate Literature:** Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language.
- **Broaden Vocabulary:** Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary.
- **Written Communication:** Write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly.
- **Describe Entities:** Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing.
- **Apply Grammar:** 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 through weekly lessons.

Impact

The impact of our French curriculum is evaluated through:

- Regular teacher assessments which identify pupils working below, within or above expected levels.
- Observing children speaking and listening in another language.
- Marking of written work.
- Images and videos of children completing speaking and listening activities.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Selecting a range of pupils to monitor simple conversations in French.
- Annual reporting of standards across the curriculum to parents.
- Learning walks monitoring vocabulary and phrases being learned on display.