

DARWEN ST JAMES'



**Modern Foreign Languages
(MFL) Policy**

Updated Sept 25

Mission

Nurturing ambition through living faith.

Vision

Our academy delivers a purposeful curriculum through its living Christian faith. We nurture ambition in all our learners in order for them to become positive citizens of tomorrow.

Bible

‘Let us not love with words or speech alone but with actions and truth.’
1 John 3:18

Introduction

At Darwen St James we teach a Modern Foreign Language to all key stage two children as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons. Firstly, we believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. Secondly, we also believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. We also believe that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school, as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life.

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 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

We teach the French language to children in Key stage two for 45 mins a week using Kapow French.

The curriculum

French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school.

The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. We teach the children 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 the other language;
- look at life in another culture.
- teaching and learning style

We believe that learning a new language is vital within primary schools because it creates extensive opportunities for pupils and allows them to discover other cultures. Children gain confidence, knowledge and transferrable skills about language learning to take with them to KS3 and help them progress with languages in their further education.

Teaching a modern foreign language to children with special educational needs

At our school we teach a modern foreign language to all key stage 2 children. A modern foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Assessment against the National Curriculum allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels.

When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of factors – classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, and differentiation – so that we can take some additional or different action to enable the child to learn more effectively. This ensures that our teaching is matched to the child's needs.

We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning a modern foreign language. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, for example, a playground game in a modern foreign language, we may carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

Assessment

At Darwen St James, we continually assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. We do this informally during the lessons, and through the final lesson for each unit where the pupils are assessed on specific objectives. We aim to use the four national attainment targets to evaluate the progress of each child in:

- listening and responding;
- speaking;
- reading and responding;

- writing.

Monitoring and review

We monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach in the school. The headteacher also reports to the governing body on the progress of children in French in the same way as in any other subject. The governors' curriculum committee has the responsibility of monitoring the success of the teaching in French.

M. Matthews 14/9/25