

Curriculum Intent Statement for Modern Foreign Languages

Intent

The MFL curriculum at GM School is designed to instil our students with resilience, confidence, creativity and a thirst for success in languages.

Implementation

MFL plays an integral part in supporting literacy across the school. Learning a foreign language requires students to understand and get to grips with the grammar – the mechanics – of a language. This, in turn, supports them in writing and speaking at a calibre much higher than they had previously been able to. Additionally, students learn that there are often connections with Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary in English, thus improving their word power.

EYFS and KS1

MFL is not taught during these phases. However, the fundamental building blocks for success in learning languages – such as phonemic awareness, language-rich environments, a love of learning and access to high-quality spoken language – are embedded throughout the curriculum.

KS2

We teach French across KS2. The school uses Languages Angels scheme of work to support the teaching of French. This provides a clear and progression for the development of speaking and listening and vocabulary acquisition. There are resources to support the teaching and learning opportunities for the children in KS2. These provide teachers with clear progression grids and content for teaching and learning.

KS2 children learn French through various different techniques:

Games: in order to develop vocabulary through repetition, writing, speaking and listening skills

Role-play: this should relate to the situations the children may find themselves in, in the future

Songs and rhymes: to develop phonetic skills, memory skills and further vocabulary

KS3

Key Stage 3 follows the National Curriculum and is taught in mixed ability groups over 4 hours per fortnight.

Students are taught to accept and embrace other languages and cultures through the teaching of MFL. In relation to this, students are educated on the religious beliefs of the people in countries of the language they are learning, such as Catholicism in France. Famous people from the Francophone world are regularly highlighted to ensure that students are exposed to cultural icons from across the world. A whole range of topics are covered from travel to education, healthy living and social awareness. Students are encouraged to be empathetic to the cultures, beliefs and traditions of others and stereotypes and intolerance are challenged where necessary.

Students are encouraged to work independently in lessons and proactively use the target language in classwork, whether through pair work, co-operative learning techniques or group work. Students are often in groups of varied abilities to encourage social interaction with others in the class with whom they may not usually interact. Students are encouraged to experiment with language and learn from their mistakes. There is a supportive environment in MFL classes where mistakes are seen as learning opportunities and develop social strategies for dealing with confrontational situations or problems.

KS4

KS4 follows the AQA GCSE exam board specification and is taught in mixed ability groups over 6 hours per fortnight.

Pupils will learn by:

- Delivering deliberate and focused teaching of the three pillars of lexicon, grammar and phonics
- Enabling students to confidently express themselves in a number of tenses and registers, by providing them with a wide lexical knowledge at their fingertips
- Providing a range of strategies that allow students to decode unfamiliar language
- Offering a range of enrichment opportunities to develop an intellectual curiosity in our students about the country of the language that they are studying, thereby ensuring that they become responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society

At GCSE, we use the AQA examination body.

Please see <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658> for more details regarding the French specification.

Assessment

Primary

Pupils are assessed through the school's formative assessment strategies. These are used to inform decisions about planning and next steps.

Secondary

At KS3, students are assessed regularly in class to ensure that progress is being made. Typically, a student will be assessed in all four skills across the term. Students are then assessed formally at the end of each half term to ensure that progress is being made and to offer next step advice.

At KS4, in-class assessments are made twice every half term. All assessment takes place at the end of the course in Y11. At the end of the GCSE, students are examined in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

Enrichment Opportunities

All students have the opportunity to visit France and Belgium. We regularly run trips to Boulogne, where students visit the Sea Life Centre and have the opportunity to have lunch in a French restaurant and soak up the atmosphere. The Christmas trip to Bruges is incredibly popular, with students able to take the time to wander around the streets of the beautiful historic city and experience life on the continent. We run clubs and masterclasses for those with an additional interest in languages, including Latin as part of our extra-curricular Classics programme.

Supporting your Child

- Encourage your child to watch a tv show or film with subtitles in another language
- Get books, films and magazines from abroad if you go on holiday
- Get a subscription for a language magazine
- Download interactive games to support learning languages – all students are set homework regularly on Quizlet !
- Ask your child to teach you to say something in the foreign language each day
- Encourage your child to look for popular singers and bands from other countries and play music in the foreign language at home
- Ask your child to make mind maps and revision cards to learn new language
- Help them to use the “look, cover, write, check” method to practise spellings

- Play word association games and test them on their vocabulary
- Make an effort to learn the vocabulary that your teacher gives you, or, even better, try to learn a new word every school day – that would be 195 new words in each school year!
- Le Cinéma- Go and see a French movie at the “Ciné Lumière”; a cinema dedicated to showing French and other European films. A cultural experience if nothing else, but a valuable language learning activity also! (020 7073 1350)
- Visit “L’Institut français du Royaume Uni” (French Cultural Institute in the UK), near South Kensington tube: www.institut-francais.org.uk Lots more than just films here.
- Au Restaurant- Enjoy a family meal in a French Restaurant/Bistro! Try “Le Bistrot” at the French Institute, you’ll find a choice of freshly prepared French regional dishes, creative sandwiches, yummy pastries and more. A more accessible place to try is the chain “Café Rouge”; they offer a great snack menu and also fantastic specialities from different regions of France. Try a Croque Madame or a Croissant au fromage!
- Check out www.cineworld.com for some great Bollywood films!

Have a look at some of the websites below:

- www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/Curriculum/modlang – Good for video clips of native French speakers and gap fill comprehension exercises.
- www.ur.se/chloe/frame.html – Read and listen to the adventures of Chloe. It’s a mystery in 9 episodes, each of 10 minutes.
- www.tf1.fr – The “number 1” French TV channel! Explore the site, watch tv and music video clips or watch the news and weather!
- www.tunein.com – listen to radio from around the world
- www.duolingo.com – extend your language skills with this free online tutors
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french/> – Great for GCSE practice
- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/> – All of the past papers are on this website – download them, complete them and then bring them in to be marked or check yourself against the marking scheme

Where could Modern Foreign Languages take you next?

Possible careers in Modern Foreign Languages can be – English as a Modern Foreign Language Teacher, Logistics and Distribution Officer, Cabin Crew, Marketing, Army RAF Navy Officer and more!