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| French Curriculum Design |
| Curriculum Intent |
| At SS John and Monica School, we believe that learning a foreign language can be a way to broaden horizons and provide an opening to other cultures. We understand that an engaging languages education should foster pupils’ curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. Enthusiastic, lively teaching should empower pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and be aware of other cultures and ways of living. We recognize that our school is a multi- lingual community where many children already speak another language. This has shown us that children enjoy learning to speak another language and that they tend to acquire new words and phrases quickly. It follows that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are in primary school, as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage in their development. Language teaching should provide the foundation for and inspire an interest in learning other languages. Through engaging lessons and delivery, pupils should enjoy expressing themselves using a different language. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life. Learning a foreign language empowers children to see themselves as part of a wider, global community. |
| Curriculum Implementation |
|  In SS. John and Monica School teachers engage the pupils in Years 3 to 6 in French related activities for 30 minutes every two weeks. However, we understand that whilst discrete lessons are a way to focus on new vocabulary, pronunciation and the written word, regular use of spoken French words and phrases during the day will help the children to embed their knowledge and store this new vocabulary in their long term memory. We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the FL: these include games, role play and songs (particularly action songs). We use puppets and soft toys to demonstrate the foreign language. We use mime to accompany new vocabulary, as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation. We emphasise the speaking and listening skills over the reading and writing skills using a multi – sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching. We try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realize that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of FLs. Children also enjoy watching well known children’s T.V. programmes spoken in the French language where they are able to translate meaning. We build children’s confidence through praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.   |
| Curriculum Impact |
| We aim for all children to enjoy learning French and to actively engage with the range of activities we offer. We believe that all children can participate in French lessons and find success in pronouncing words in a new language, especially when role play, mime, song and digital media is used. More able learners will rise to the challenge of the written language and recognise the grammatical patterns that are similar or different from their own language. The central impact of our French curriculum here at SS John and Monica’s is reflected in the children’s attitudes and approaches to learning a new language and learning about other cultures. We aim for our children to become citizens of the wider, global community who have aspirations for their futures that include learning other languages and travel to new and interesting places around the world. |