



Modern Foreign Languages Policy

May 2024

Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality 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. 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.

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. We believe that many children enjoy learning to speak another language and 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. 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 foreign language in primary school are:

- To foster an interest in learning other languages, promoting positive attitudes towards language learning through a range of learning activities.
- To become aware that language has a structure, and that this structure differs from one language to another by exploring the grammar of the French language.
- To gain enjoyment, pride and a sense of achievement.
- To explore and apply strategies to improve their learning.
- To develop their intercultural understanding by exploring the cultural similarities and differences between their lives and those of French citizens.
- To introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun.
- To develop their speaking and listening skills.
- To lay the foundations for future study.

Teaching and Learning Styles

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 also use a multi – sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, introducing a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. Making lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible is a priority as we realize that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of other languages. We build children's confidence through praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative. The topics covered in all lessons deal with everyday interactions and situations familiar to children. In our Kapow Schemes of Work, delivery is aided by the use of whiteboard resources including engaging visuals and recordings of French speakers to encourage correct pronunciation.

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 2014 National Curriculum. We follow the Schemes of Work set out by Kapow Primary; these are adapted to the context of our school and the wider knowledge we have of the demographic of our children. The 5 Key Strands of Speaking and Pronunciation, Listening, Reading and Writing, Grammar and Intercultural Understanding are covered.

We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- Ask and answer questions
- Use correct pronunciation and intonation
- Memorise words to build vocabulary
- Interpret meaning
- Understand basic grammar
- Use dictionaries and digital technology to facilitate translation and spelling
- Work in pairs and groups to communicate in the other language
- Look at life in another culture.

Speaking and Listening

The children will:

- Encounter a range of situations and activities designed to develop competence, accuracy and confidence in speaking and listening.
- Develop their oral abilities at their own levels.
- Develop listening and comprehension skills through a variety of means.
- Be able to express opinions, articulate feelings and formulate appropriate responses to increasingly complex instructions and questions.

Reading

The children will be given opportunities to:

- Read stories for enjoyment and practise vocabulary.
- Read stories to gain awareness of the structure of written French.

Writing

The children will be given opportunities to:

- Copy write high frequency words in KS2 for example, days, months, name, age etc.

Teaching MFL to children with SEND

We aim to teach French to all children, whatever their ability. The teaching of FL is statutory for all KS2 pupils. As part of the school's curriculum policy, we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to all children. We provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of those children with learning difficulties. Teachers should aim to give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible to fulfil their potential.

Assessment

We assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress. This is done informally during lessons in order to evaluate what the children have learned. Assessment is in 4 key areas:

- Listening and responding
- Speaking
- Reading and responding
- Writing

Resources

We have adopted the Kapow Primary Schemes of Work to more fully resource our teaching of MFL. We aim to teach 30 minutes of the MFL every two weeks with classes in KS2. In our Kapow Schemes of Work, delivery is aided by the use of whiteboard resources including engaging visuals and recordings of French speakers to encourage correct pronunciation. This supports teachers who do not feel confident with the French language. Furthermore, a classroom resources section allows teachers to access a wealth of engaging resources to support their teaching of French. Moreover, if required, a variety of resources are available in school and these are shared on the central staff system which include a selection of CDs with accompanying books, posters and interactive whiteboard materials. Birmingham Education Services further provide resources which are also shared with teachers. Pupils enjoy the range of songs and children's programmes spoken in French that are available on You Tube.

Monitoring and Review

The MFL Coordinator at SS John and Monica will support the staff as follows:

- Writing and revising the FL policy with the support of staff
- Monitoring teacher's planning as required
- Monitoring the standards of the children's work
- Auditing, buying and maintaining resources
- Supporting colleagues with issues relating to the planning and teaching of French
- Keeping up to date with current developments in the subject
- Advising the head teacher of the strengths and weaknesses in the subjects, indicating areas for further improvement.

Date: June 2026

Review June 2028