

St Matthew's Catholic Primary School



French Policy

Updated February 2022



French policy

In our school, we teach a foreign language to all Key Stage 1 and 2 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. Pupils also have access to French in EYFS through informal vocabulary teaching and through engaging songs and stories.

When children leave St Matthew's, they will have a confidence in conversing in French and understanding the language in a written format too. Pupils will also have benefitted from exposure to cultures within Francophone countries around the world to support their wider understanding of the world. They will have embedded literacy and numeracy skills within their learning of French also.

The aims of French teaching are to enable children to:

- The confidence to speak with good intonation and pronunciation.
- Fluency in reading.
- Fluency and imagination in writing.
- A strong awareness of the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.
- A passion for languages and a commitment to the subject.
- The ability to use language creatively and spontaneously.
- An independence in their studies and the ability to draw upon a wide range of resources.

How do we recognise good learning and teaching of French in our school?

Our philosophy on learning and teaching is encapsulated in our Learning and Teaching Policy to which reference should be made. When we are teaching, we focus on motivating all of our children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of French so that they can reach their highest level of personal achievement.

We believe good teaching is:

- Activities that provoke learning by having fun.
- Ensuring inclusion of all.
- Planning lessons that are engaging, well-paced and motivating for children.
- Effective planning is used based on assessments and knowing the next steps in a child's learning.
- Having a clear progression of skills across school in language-learning.
- Teacher having high expectations and setting appropriate challenges.
- Planning opportunities to use and apply their learning in other areas of the curriculum.

Leadership and Management Roles

French is managed by the Head Teacher and led by a designated member of staff. The areas of responsibility for the MFL Subject Leader include:

- Monitoring and evaluating the curriculum, planning and delivery of French throughout the school.
- Ensuring all French documentation is reviewed and monitored.
- Co-ordinating French INSET.
- Ordering and maintaining resources.
- Ensuring that provision is made for OSHL (out of school learning).
- Working with other teachers to ensure consistency and quality of teaching.

Role of the MFL Subject Leader

The music subject leader will:

- provide advice and assistance to all staff when requested, in order to implement the French curriculum
- organise resources to support the school French policy and scheme of work
- co-ordinate purchasing, organisation and distribution of resources
- arrange in-service support
- liaise with outside agencies, other schools and colleges and monitor Policy and Scheme of Work.
-

Early Years

We teach French informally in Early Years as a way of building key developmental skills, such as: listening, speaking and reading. French contributes to a child's personal and social development, for example, recognising numbers and basic greetings in French. As well as, engaging with French nursery rhymes and stories. This exposure to another language and culture helps to instill confidence in a child and to broaden their cultural horizons.

The contribution of French to teaching in other curriculum areas

The use of French throughout the curriculum can be hugely valuable in supporting and promoting learning. Teaching staff should consider how French can be used in a subject areas to facilitate learning and enhance the learning experiences of our pupils when planning units of work. In particular, linking French to: Maths, English, Geography, Music and History teaching can be beneficial in order to deepen understanding and skills.

Teaching French to children with special needs

We teach French to all children in accordance with the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children. Teachers provide learning opportunities matched to need of children with barriers to their learning and our work in French takes into account the targets set for individual children in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

Planning

French is planned in accordance with The National Curriculum for MFL for Early Years, KS1 and KS2 (2014). The skills of: speaking, listening, reading and writing are encapsulated within a long term plan and delivered as short term lesson plans with subsequent resources and assessments termly to identify progression. Currently, St Matthew's is working alongside partner schools as part of The Bishop Chadwick Trust to develop a new and innovative curriculum for French, which will include: long term plans, curriculum maps, medium and short term plans, resources and assessment tools. This will launch across school in September 2022.

Assessment and recording

Teachers use AFL strategies to assess children's French language skills and development by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. At the end of the term, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the French skills and development of each pupil in relation to the National Curriculum, which is recorded in the end-of-year report.

In Key Stage 1 we aim to teach pupils to:

- Use their listening skills to engage with a wide range of contemporary and classic stories and nursery rhymes in French.
- Develop their speaking skills by engaging with these songs and stories in French.
- Beginning to read and write key vocabulary and basic sentences in French.
- Explore the culture of Francophone countries, including celebrations.

In Key Stage 2 we aim to teach pupils to:

- Develop their skills in: listening, speaking, writing and reading when learning about different aspects of French life, such as: family, pets, home, school and describing themselves and others.
- Embedding their grammatical understanding in French through building upon their understanding of verb conjugations and sentence structure.
- Explore the culture of Francophone countries, including celebrations.

Entitlement and curriculum provision

Pupils receive a broad and balanced curriculum in which sufficient time is provided to teach French and to provide for progression in knowledge, skills and understanding.

We develop and enhance children's language skills by giving opportunities, through structured French tuition from school staff. The range of French tuition available in school enables progression to be made by children being able to build on prior skills.