



MFL (FRENCH) POLICY

Introduction

As part of the National Curriculum, it is compulsory for children in KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) to learn another language. At Great Binfields School we teach French across both key stages. There is also opportunity for the children to participate in a French extracurricular club.

Rationale

Language is at the heart of all the learning a pupil does. It is how they receive knowledge, express themselves and communicate, from the very earliest stages. The learning of a language should enhance their abilities to communicate and help to develop personal skills. Learning a language helps the development of an understanding of the many purposes for which language is used. It promotes an awareness of the diversity of forms language can take. Children already have a broad understanding of the purpose, nature, and functions of language by the time they begin learning a foreign language. Learning a foreign language will enhance this knowledge base.

Aims: Taken direct, The National Curriculum (NC) states the aims for children in languages are to:

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

Some further aims not stated in the NC:

- To learn about some of the cultural aspects of France
- To develop the ability to contribute more effectively to modern society

Teaching Organisation

French is taught in a whole-class setting in alternating half terms by the class teacher.

The French lead has a long-term plan and teaching progression in place which wherever possible links with the topics that are being covered in each year group throughout the year. Planning is in place on the Teachers' Pool shared drive and use of Lightbulb Languages is encouraged. French Early Start and Hampshire Languages also provide a wealth of ideas for practical and enjoyable activities that aid long term memory of French vocabulary. The lessons are designed to motivate children from the first moment and are mainly practical in focus. They have clear, achievable objectives and incorporate different learning styles. SEND and disadvantaged children have equal access to the curriculum through the same task being scaffolded, grouping or support from an adult. Key Stage 2 children will be taught French for between 45 mins to 1 hour each time taught, and French is practiced informally at various times throughout the day where is encouraged including: greeting people, answering the register in French and referring to the French calendar (days and months).

This will enhance our children's experience of French and increase confidence over time so that by the time they leave in Year 6 the children have an awareness of a number of French vocab topics. Key Stage 2 children record written work informally and when having done so this is placed in their topic book/folder.

Key Stage 1 children are introduced to French in Years 1 – 2 with 30 minutes lessons each time taught. They will also practice their French by answering the register in French, singing some French songs/rhymes and play lots of games such as Greetings/Number Bingo to make the lessons as enjoyable and practical as possible.

If teachers have any concerns, they can ask the French Lead for advice. The French Lead supports staff with the delivery of the subject by team teaching or modelling lessons. In addition to this, the French Lead delivers training to students on the Schools Direct course linked to our school.

Resources

The school is well resourced for French teaching. In the school resource cupboard, located in the staffroom, labelled resources are easily accessible and useable for all staff to share with their children. Planning is kept digitally in Teachers' Pool where there is the whole school long term plan, progression map, medium term plans and formative assessment outcomes for each year group. Each unit has a variety of easy-to-follow lesson plans for the non-French expert as well as printable resources which accompany them. The school has a subscription to Grammarsaurus which also has good resources.

Methodology

Whole class teaching is used to teach French as research shows that this is the best way to practice and learn a language. Pupils work individually, in pairs, or in small groups (to cater for a range of different learning strategies and the cohort's needs). Learning objectives are shared with the children and lessons include a range of games, songs, oral work, role-play and active participation as well as listening and talking experiences. Reading and written tasks are included with increasing frequency as the children advance through Key Stage 2.

Equality

All teaching and learning of French at Great Binfields Primary will ensure that every child is included as this is their right. They are supported in the knowledge that there is equality in terms of opportunity, social background, race, gender and disability. Religious beliefs of pupils and their families will be respected at all times.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Teachers will assess formatively throughout lessons by questioning, oral feedback and where appropriate written work. Whole termly assessment outcomes are completed after each topic on Sonar and the children's end of year reports include the child's attainment as well as effort/attitude towards French learning.

Subject Lead

The French Lead observes French teaching via Learning Walks and our children's learning is also shared in the form of a folder scrutiny to ensure breadth of French curriculum opportunity, progression across the school and parity of teaching for each year group. The French Lead ask teachers for photographic, video, and/or written evidence of their children's learning in order to monitor what children have been taught so that it can be cross referenced with the French whole school progression of skills.

Policy Reviewed: Spring 2024

Next Review: Spring 2026