

French

Our French curriculum provides practical and engaging activities in order to support children to have the confidence and ability to begin to use the French language. Lessons are based around building a bank of vocabulary and being able to create simple sentences. We hope that by giving the children the chance to study and learn a language they will feel inspired to further develop their interest and knowledge in different cultures and languages. All children in Key Stage 2 participate in a weekly French lesson which begins at the same starting point. Watching and listening to stories, songs, poems and documentaries in French helps children with pronunciation when they are practising orally and also gives them an insight into French culture.

Learning Opportunities

Teachers are provided with access to the La Jolie Ronde scheme of work to assist with planning and curriculum coverage. This organises the National Curriculum into individual lessons that enable pupils to acquire a range of knowledge as the sequence and selection of vocabulary and grammar builds on previous lessons and feeds forward to future learning.

Lessons ensure pupils gain a secure understanding of key vocabulary and provide opportunities for them to practise speaking, listening, reading and writing in French. Written French is introduced via vocabulary books and basic grammar is taught by initially writing French words and then building up to writing a range of sentences on a particular topic.

Each lesson has four parts beginning with an introduction to the new vocabulary. Children listen and repeat the new vocabulary then practise through interactive or practical games. They then demonstrate their new learning to the teacher through oracy games or written activities.

Progression

Throughout Key Stage 2, key vocabulary is revisited and revised to ensure children retain and use their prior knowledge and build on it. For example, Year 3 learn numbers 1 – 10 in the autumn term. This is then revisited in the spring term of Year 3 and again in the summer term of Year 4 when the children also learn numbers 11 – 31. Numbers 0 – 50 are revisited in Year 5 by which point children will have a solid understanding of numbers in French. Our Progression of Skills document demonstrates how the children progress in their French skills throughout Key Stage 2 in the following areas: speaking and listening / oracy; stories, songs, poems and rhymes; grammar and intercultural understanding.

Assessment

Regular formative assessment takes place in all lessons. The structure of the lessons provides the teachers with opportunities to gauge understanding before moving on to the next part of the lesson. This is done through a range of methods such as oracy games, written activities and whole class tasks. Teachers are also provided with an assessment grid that is completed at the end of each term. They use this to make a judgement about whether the child is working towards, at or above age-related expectations.