

Great and Little Shelford CE (A) Primary School
CURRICULUM POLICY FOR MFL: FRENCH
Ratified - July 2019 Next review – September 2019

The importance of MFL

‘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. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.’ (DFE Languages Programme of Study for KS2 2013)

Aims

The national curriculum for languages aims to ensure that all pupils:

- 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

Attainment targets

By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

Implementation

At Great and Little Shelford School, children are taught a formal French lesson in KS2. All KS2 class teachers are responsible for the overseeing the planning and teaching of French. However, in Years 4 to 6, French is taught by Higher Level Teaching Assistants who specialise in the subject. Time is allocated on a weekly basis for the teaching of specific foreign language skills.

Subject content

Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1

The teaching of MFL in the Foundation Stage and in KS1 is not compulsory. However, alongside our international curriculum, children are exposed to elements of the French culture and learn simple songs and games to begin to develop an interest in the French language. KS1 French Club began in September 2018 and is delivered in school once per week by La Jolie Ronde.

Key Stage 2

French is taught to all pupils in KS2 at Shelford for approximately one hour per week.

The children are taught to know and understand how to:

- use a variety of nouns and simple verbs
- ask and answer questions
- use correct pronunciation and intonation
- memorise words
- interpret meaning
- understand basic grammar
- use bilingual dictionaries
- develop geographical knowledge of French speaking nations
- start to engage in active dialogue in purposeful contexts
- work in pairs and groups to communicate with each other
- promote intercultural awareness

At Great and Little Shelford, we aim to provide a balance of spoken and written language with a focus on practical communication. Children are encouraged to explore the language collaboratively through games, songs and rhymes and to show what they have learnt through simple conversations and role-play in both written and spoken French. Once a year, as part of a village Twinning Association visit, French children of primary age visit the school for a morning. This opportunity is used to practise the words and phrases they have used. There are opportunities to hear a familiar book read in both languages and for team building and communication games to be played. There is also an exchange of knowledge of how school works in each of the two countries.

Language specific units are taught alongside cultural themes to develop an awareness and understanding of culture and traditions in French speaking countries across the world. Activities are planned in such a way as to encourage full and active participation by all children irrespective of ability.

A pen pal scheme is established in Years 3 to 5 (and Year 6 as of September 2019). Classes make two correspondences each year to their French pen pals (L'Ecole Jules Ferry, Verneuil-en-Halatte) which complement work covered in the curriculum.

Due to the success and popularity of our KS1 French Club, a KS2 club is set to start from September 2019 and will be delivered in school once per week by La Jolie Ronde.

Information and Communication Technology

A variety of online resources, including the Rachel Hawkes and Tout Le Monde schemes of work, are used to support and consolidate language learning when and where appropriate.

Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to ensuring access and inclusion for all its pupils and believes that every child deserves the opportunity to fulfil their potential. We achieve this by ensuring that our planning meets the needs of all pupils: boys and girls, children with special educational needs, children who are more able, children with disabilities, and children from all social and cultural backgrounds, different ethnic groups and diverse linguistic backgrounds.

Assessment

Continuous informal assessments take place across KS2 in order to assess the children's progress in this subject, taking note of accuracy of pronunciation, spelling and grammar when reading and writing in order to assess standards achieved. In addition, end of unit assessments are made by the teacher, where children are assessed against the objectives that have been covered. These assessments are received and evaluated by the subject leader and discussed with the class teacher as necessary. At the end of the year, data is uploaded to Target Tracker which enables the subject leader to gain a view of attainment and progress in separate year groups and across KS2. A subject action plan is completed annually.

Alongside oral assessments, all children also complete written activities (where appropriate) to form a personal French portfolio of work, which acts as a record of every child's progress and skills throughout their life at Great and Little Shelford CE (A) Primary School.

Resources

All resources are held in the Resource Room. Classes are also able to access the Tout le Monde online resources stored on the network. The Rachel Hawkes scheme and resources are all available online along with a wealth of other online resources available through MFL Curriculum teaching websites. The subject leader is responsible for ordering resources and managing the subject budget.