

Modern Foreign Languages

Rationale

At Caversham Park Primary, we are linguists and we want our pupils to love languages! The focus language taught will be French. In our school, we have an increasing number of first languages from around the world and understand that language learning lies at the heart of ideas about individual identity and community. As the world becomes more accessible, we firmly believe that learning a foreign language will foster children's curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world; the skills, knowledge and understanding gained through this learning, make a major contribution to their understanding of their own cultures and those of others, including those societies where French is a predominant language.

In addition, understanding a modern foreign language increases a child's understanding of their own language, reinforcing fluency and the understanding of grammar, syntax, sentence structure and verbal precision. Furthermore, we believe that language is at the heart of all learning. It is how information is received and communicated from the earliest stages of our development. Therefore, learning a language helps develop the understanding of the many purposes for which language is used. We believe this will enhance confidence and the willingness children have to participate in purposeful dialogue; experimenting with language and using it creatively.

Curriculum Intent

At Caversham Park Primary School, the intention of our MFL curriculum is to develop an interest in -and thirst for - learning other languages as well as providing a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. Through a progressive, knowledge rich curriculum, we aim to help our children to develop and extend their communication skills and their knowledge of how language works as well as progressing their oracy skills.

We aim to introduce the learning of French and the understanding of its culture, in enjoyable and stimulating ways. We hope to embed the essential skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, aiming to build the children's 'cultural capital' so that they are aware of similarities and differences between cultures. In short, we hope to lay the foundations for future language learning in KS3 and in later life.

Curriculum Implementation

Our MFL curriculum has been designed to progressively develop knowledge in French. We are currently using 'Lightbulb languages' as a frame from which to deliver these lessons. Focussing on a key question, the lessons ensure children acquire a bank of vocabulary organised around topics. This development is progressive as they build on previous knowledge from units already studied. All children in KS2 are taught French in weekly discreet lessons every other term, to allow them sufficient time to become fluent in

their knowledge and skills; regular retrieval practice will ensure this is embedded in their long-term memory.

Children enjoy taking an active part in language lessons; they join in with singing, reciting rhymes and poems and respond to stories. They deliver presentations, take part in knowledge quizzes; create sketches and role-plays -imitating accurate intonation and pronunciation. They play games, take turns, make things and experiment creatively with language. Children approach a broad range of learning activities in a new and challenging context; these relate to other subject areas such as English, Geography and RE, leading to deep learning and significant gains in their general understanding as they recycle and reinterpret existing knowledge.

Impact:

We assess MFL through formative assessment across the units, against the four targets:

Listening

Speaking

Reading

Writing

The curriculum provides a variety of opportunities to demonstrate knowledge - for example, through conversations, quizzes, matching activities, sentence writing and performance; misconceptions that arise at any point are addressed appropriately. Children continue to recall their knowledge throughout the units and the curriculum provides opportunities for planned revisits of previous learned knowledge.

Pupils will be able to:

- listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding; explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
- speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures
- develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
- present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences
- read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language
- broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary

- write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly
- describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing
- broaden their knowledge of French people and culture including learning about French artists and how the French celebrate Christmas, Bastille Day and other celebrations