

St Lawrence C of E (Aided) Junior School

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy

Introduction

At St Lawrence we provide pupils with French lessons across all year groups. We believe that learning a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for the pupils, which is vital in an ever changing world.

Pupils will develop communication and literacy skills that lay the foundation for future language learning. Not only do we aim to develop pupils' linguistic competence, but also to extend their knowledge of how a language works through exploring some of the differences and similarities between French and English.

Learning another language raises awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world in which we live and introduces an international dimension to pupils' learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others. The learning of a foreign language provides a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a Modern Foreign Language at St. Lawrence, linked to the Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages and the National Curriculum, are to:

- develop pupils' speaking and listening skills.
- foster an interest in learning other languages.
- introduce our pupils to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun.
- stimulate and encourage the pupils' curiosity about language.
- encourage children to be aware that language has structure and that the structure differs from one language to another.
- help the children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries.

Organisation and planning

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 are taught French for 30 minutes per week by the class teacher. Long and medium term plans are written by the MFL coordinator and are based upon the interactive Rigolo schemes of work. Long and medium term plans are implemented by the class teachers within each year group, after liaison and support from the MFL coordinator. The class teacher will take responsibility for short term planning.

The Rigolo 1 scheme of work is followed in Years 3 and 4 and the Rigolo 2 scheme of work in Years 5 and 6. The Rigolo 2 scheme of work begins to place more importance on reading and writing, alongside speaking and listening skills.

The Rigolo schemes of work include videos, games, songs and a wide variety of activities and are complimented by a variety of other resources including puppets, books and French dictionaries.

Teaching and Learning

The curriculum that we follow is based on the National Curriculum and the Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages, centered on the three key themes of Oracy, Literacy and Intercultural understanding. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ask and answer questions
- use correct pronunciation and intonation
- memorise words
- interpret meaning
- understand basic grammar
- use dictionaries
- work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the target language
- look at life in another culture

We use a variety of techniques to encourage the pupils to actively engage in French lessons which include games, role-play and songs. To maintain pupil focus, interest and participation, a variety of whole class teaching, group work, paired and individual work are included in lessons. This approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the pupils to the learning of a modern foreign language.

In Years 3 and 4 we emphasise the importance of listening and speaking skills. Gradually pupils are encouraged to read and begin to write in the target language. In Years 5 and 6 increasing importance is placed on reading and writing skills alongside speaking and listening.

Assessment and Progression

We assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. This is done informally during the lessons in order to evaluate what the pupils have learned. Children also tick a set of 'I can...' statements at the end of each topic. These are taken with them to each new class as they progress through the school.

Assessment is in four key areas:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading and writing
- Cultural understanding

The MFL coordinator will observe French lessons when possible to ensure there is continuity and progression across year groups.

Role of the MFL co-ordinator

- To support teachers with MFL planning and teaching including observations
- To provide teaching ideas, materials and suitable resources
- To raise awareness of MFL and its links to the International Dimension throughout the school
- To monitor and assess the teaching and learning within the classroom

- To keep staff updated on training opportunities, local and national initiatives and teaching resources

Reviewed: March 2019

Next review date : March 2022