

Introduction

Newfield Park Primary School believes that the learning of a foreign language provides a **valuable spiritual, moral, social and cultural experience** for the pupils and is keen to promote the introduction of a Modern Foreign Language to our pupils. Since September 2008, children in KS2 have been given the opportunity to learn French as part of the school curriculum. French is taught throughout the four years of KS2, in order for children to reach the National Standards.

Aims

- foster an interest in learning other languages
- introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun
- stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language
- develop their speaking and listening skills
- To develop pupils' communication and literacy skills that lay the foundation for future language learning
- To develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between foreign languages and English
- To enhance pupils' awareness of the multilingual and multicultural world and introduce an international dimension to pupils' learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others
- The development of skills through speaking, listening, reading and writing, cultural understanding, grammar, spelling and language learning strategies. These key skills are identified in the New National curriculum for Primary Languages.

Organisation

We teach a foreign language to all children in KS2 for 45 minutes to 1 hour a week. This is delivered through one formal teaching session **during the week** and through other learning areas and opportunities which arise during the week, as and when they link in with other areas of the curriculum. In this way they are embedded with the primary curriculum as a whole.

The children are taught how to:

- ask and answer questions
- use correct pronunciation and grammar
- memorize words
- interpret meaning
- understand basic grammar
- use dictionaries
- work in pairs and groups and communicate in French
- look at life in another culture

Planning and Progression

There is a content based learning focus for each half term for each yeargroup. Within these contexts children will learn to:

Year 3 learn words and familiar phrases

Year 4 build a phrase

Year 5 link 2 or 3 phrases

Year 6 link and expand phrases to a short paragraph

Planning is structured using the BEST Midlands Progression document and is enhanced with other resources. A multi-sensory and kinesthetic approach to teaching is used, i.e. a physical element is introduced into some of the games, rhymes and songs as this serves to reinforce memory. Teaching strategies make lessons as enjoyable as possible so that the children develop a positive attitude to the learning of Modern Foreign Languages. Children's confidence is built through praise for any contribution they make, however tentative.

Tasks and activities:

- have clear, achievable objectives
- are carefully planned and structured
- are practical, active and varied
- involve the use of ICT where appropriate
- include whole class, small group and pair work
- promote success and self esteem

Cross-Curriculum Links

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education: By teaching a modern foreign language we contribute to the children's cultural education. They learn that many societies are multilingual. We teach them about festivals and customs related to countries in which the language is spoken. We are also aiming to give them the chance to hear stories set in the foreign culture.

English: The learning of modern foreign languages naturally contributes to the development of our children's speaking and listening skills. It also develops the children's grasp of linguistic features such as rhyme, rhythm, stress and intonation, helps them to understand the concept of register and emphasises the importance of knowing the role of different word types in sentence structure. Language learning particularly develops the understanding of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar in both English and French and helps pupils make direct links and comparisons about structure and form.

Mathematics: We play number games that reinforce their counting and calculation skills, expand their understanding of date and increase their knowledge about money.

Computing: Children are encouraged to make use of technology to enhance their learning of modern foreign languages and also to use computing curriculum skills to demonstrate what they have learnt in MFL.

Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning: One of the main benefits to the children of learning a modern language at primary school level is a social one. Those children who have a difficulty in reading and writing, but who have good aural skills, will often find they progress at speaking in foreign languages. This success breeds confidence, which in turn increases self-esteem and gives them a more positive attitude to school in general, and a deeper understanding of people in other societies and cultures.

Geography: We ask children to do research on the different countries in which the particular foreign language is spoken. By doing so they can learn about different cultures.

Music: Children learn about musical styles from other countries and cultures, and also have the opportunity to learn songs in modern foreign languages. This develops their appreciation of different cultures and helps their sense of rhythm and awareness of melody.

Inclusion

All children in KS2 have the opportunity to learn a modern foreign language. Due to the range of activities and teaching styles employed, children from across the ability range can participate and achieve successful outcomes. The lessons will reflect our highly inclusive ethos and will scaffold accordingly for EAL or SEN/SPLD requirements.

Resources to support classroom learning (*intended purchases)

- Plans and PowerPoints based on Best Midlands resources.
- French dictionaries
- Real French books
- Songs, stories and poems in French
- Euro coins and notes
- Online resources
- Tablet/laptop Apps

Assessment

Informal, on-going assessment of learning outcomes will be used to determine pupil understanding and future learning. Teachers will report back to children on their progress verbally and via marking of books (in French where appropriate), including sharing next steps and gap tasks where appropriate. Children will also be given the opportunity to self and peer assess.

Termly, teachers will report on children's progress on the non-core subject assessment grids whether they are developing, secure or exceeding national expectations.

Monitoring and review

An action plan will be drawn up by the subject leader at the start of each year. French will be monitored termly through book trawls, pupil interviews and planning trawls and this information will be fed back to staff. The subject then be reviewed at the end of the school year.

Roles of the Subject Leader

The Subject Leader is responsible for monitoring the planning, teaching and assessing of French across the whole school. In conjunction with teachers, they ensure all resources are up to date and relevant for the topics being taught. They help colleagues to develop their own subject expertise and knowledge and understanding. Action plans and policies for MFL are the responsibility of the subject leader.

R Roper
December 2023