

This statement, and our Modern Foreign Languages (French) intent and curriculum, has been developed by our subject leader for Modern Foreign Languages in discussion with our teaching staff team and our Teaching, Learning and Standards Governors Committee.

This curriculum statement should be read alongside

- our school vision statement
- our Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy and our Policy on Marking and Feedback to Children
- our published curriculum overview
- our ‘curriculum pack’ for Modern Foreign Languages: French, which includes details of the agreed curriculum for French at Christ Church, including our skills and content progression documents

Intent of our Christ Church French Curriculum

Children and families at Christ Church speak many, many different home languages and we celebrate, value and utilise this through introducing children to ‘tasters’ of different languages from the very beginning of Reception through activities such as children’s ‘week in the spotlight’ presentations, learning to answer the register in different languages and learning in classes and assemblies in preparation for a range of school events which celebrate the diversity within our school.

Our curriculum provision for Modern Foreign Languages begins in Year 2 where our intention is to capitalise on the thinking behind critical age theory by introducing basic French before the statutory age detailed in the National Curriculum. We hope that all children will enjoy learning a new language and go on to develop a curiosity and a desire to learn more while they are at an age when they are less self-conscious about mispronunciation and attempts at a correct accent. In Key Stage 2 we seek to maintain this enthusiasm as well as ensuring all children receive the entitlement as set out in the National Curriculum. In collaboration with our specialist teacher, our topics are devised and organised to ensure that children’s knowledge builds over time with opportunities for the children to use vocabulary and grammar previously learnt in linked topics later on. Through learning another language, we also aim to develop the children’s skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing in both French and in English as there are strong literacy links in this curriculum area.

We recognise that alongside learning French, the children should learn about French culture, France and other Francophone countries. The National Curriculum highlights the opportunities learning another language can provide in terms of studying and working abroad. Through both learning about the intercultural aspects and learning basic French itself, we endeavour to address the disparity in cultural capital which may exist between children in our school. All children are given the opportunity to experience success in learning a different language and this, in conjunction with our strong careers programme, develops children’s knowledge and aspirations about exciting future opportunities both at home and abroad.

Our long-standing commitment to the employment of a specialist teacher for French ensures children throughout Key Stage 2 receive consistently high-quality teaching. Specialist teaching also ensures:

- Correct accent and pronunciation
- Adaptation of the curriculum in line with the needs of varying cohorts
- A good knowledge of each child which grows as children move through the school

A range of enrichment opportunities are provided, for example dual language story books available in class book corners, events which celebrate culture and languages, songs linked to the topics children learn and after school languages clubs.

Aims of Languages within the Primary National Curriculum

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

(National Curriculum 2013)

The Curriculum

All pupils in KS2 are taught the content and skills as set out the programmes of study in the National Curriculum. We also provide a non-statutory introduction to French in Year 2.

Our French ‘curriculum pack’ includes our skills progression document detailing specific skills to be taught from Year 3 to Year 6 in the following areas:

- speaking
- listening
- reading
- writing

It also includes a summary of the content (including specific vocabulary and grammatical constructions) covered in each term and how this content builds from year to year.

Additional information specific to Modern Foreign Languages (French)

Resources, teaching and continuing professional development

The school holds and uses a range of resources for teaching French, including online resources, dual language books and dictionaries.

French from Year 2 to Year 6 is planned and taught by a specialist teacher.

The Modern Foreign Languages subject leader (and the French specialist teacher) attends appropriate training and/or networks for the subject area. Training is then shared with other staff, as appropriate, including through teachers and teaching assistants supporting and participating in the weekly class French lessons.

Enrichment: Wider Opportunities

The school provides a range of wider opportunities to enrich the Modern Foreign Languages curriculum provided in the classroom, for example:

- school-wide opportunities to celebrate and share the diversity within our school community, including the language diversity, e.g. international events, individual presentations, opportunities for bilingual children to demonstrate and translate
- after school French club for KS1 and KS2, plus clubs teaching other languages

Review

This statement will be reviewed by the school’s Modern Foreign Languages Subject Leader every three years to ensure that it is a reflection of current best practice.