

French at St Michael's School

At St Michaels' we want our children to love learning a different language and to have no limits to what their ambitions are.

Intent

We want them to grow up able to live and work in any country because they know they have the skills to learn a foreign language and embrace a foreign culture. We want them to develop a curiosity for how lives may be different in different countries and to immerse themselves in some of their cultural traditions.

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.

We want to equip them with not only the minimum statutory requirements of the languages National Curriculum to be able but to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

As well as developing the confidence to speak, listen, read and write in a foreign language, we want our children to experience the vibrancy of other cultures, to give detailed accounts of the customs, history and culture of the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

We achieve this by providing a rich, diverse curriculum, underpinned by our school's core values of Respect, Honesty and Love, enabling every member of the school community to have a 'Lifetime Love for Learning'.

Implementation

At St Michael's School, French is taught in Key Stage 2 using the Language Angels Scheme of work to ensure we offer a relevant, broad, vibrant and ambitious French curriculum that inspire and excite our pupils using a wide variety of topics and themes. The four key language learning skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing are taught and all necessary grammar is covered in an age-appropriate way across the primary phase.

Lessons progressively develop pupil skills in French through regularly taught and well-planned lessons. Children progressively acquire, use and apply a growing bank of vocabulary, language skills and grammatical knowledge organised around age-appropriate topics and themes.

Children are gradually taught how to listen and read longer pieces of text in French and they have ample opportunities to speak, listen to, read and write the language being taught with and without scaffolds, frames and varying levels of support.

Children build on previous knowledge gradually as their French lessons continue to recycle, revise and consolidate previously learnt language whilst building on all four language skills.

Knowledge and awareness of required and appropriate grammar concepts are taught throughout all units at all levels of challenge. Teachers are provided with a Curriculum Map and Knowledge Webs to ensure all children are progressing their foreign language learning skills and are taught the appropriate grammar at the right time in their French learning journey. The Knowledge Webs identify what knowledge and skills to assess and how to do this.

Impact

Our Languages curriculum ensures that children develop their understanding of foreign languages. Children will become aware that a language has a structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another. Children will develop their language and communication through development of the four key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. They will have a wide vocabulary built from the songs, stories and topics they have enjoyed and as they progress in their learning, they can apply this vocabulary in increasingly sophisticated sentences, both spoken and written. Most importantly, they will understand that learning a language is fun.