



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL) POLICY – (FRENCH)

1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1** In our school we teach French to all children in Years 3 to 7 as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons. Firstly, we believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. Secondly, we also believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. We also believe that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school, as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life.
- 1.2** The main objective of teaching a modern foreign language in primary school is to promote the early development of a child's linguistic competence. We also want to:
- foster an interest in learning other languages;
 - introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable;
 - make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
 - help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
 - develop their speaking and listening skills;
 - lay the foundations for future study.

2 TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLE

- 2.1** We base the teaching on the guidance material in the QCA scheme of work for modern foreign languages. We have adapted this to the context of our school and the abilities of our children.
- 2.2** We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to engage actively in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs).
- 2.3** We emphasise the listening and speaking skills over the reading and writing skills.
- 2.4** We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages.

3 ORGANISATION

- 3.1** We teach French to children in Years 3 to 7 for one lesson a week.

4 THE CURRICULUM

- 4.1** French is one of the modern foreign languages that we teach in our school. (We also teach Spanish to Years 1 – 7.)

- 4.2** 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 to communicate in the other language;
 - look at life in another culture.

5 THE CONTRIBUTION OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES TO TEACHING IN OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

5.1 English

The learning of a modern foreign language naturally contributes to the development of our children's listening and speaking skills.

5.2 Mathematics

Children reinforce their time-telling skills by playing time-related games in the foreign language. We play number games, too, that reinforce their counting and calculation skills, expand their understanding of date, and increase their knowledge about money.

5.3 Personal, social and health education and citizenship

One of the main benefits to the children of learning a modern foreign language at primary school level is a social one. Those children who have difficulty in reading and writing, but who have good aural skills, will often find that they excel 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.

5.4 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 the countries in which the language is spoken. We also give them the chance to hear stories set in the foreign culture.

5.5 Geography

We ask the children to do research on the different countries in which French is spoken.

5.6 Music

We teach children songs in French— both traditional and modern – which of course helps them develop a sense of rhythm and an ear for melody.

5.7 History

We teach children about significant historical figures and events in the history of France).

5.8 Science

Children reinforce their knowledge of parts of the body through related games, such as a French version of 'Simon Says', or 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'.

6 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND INCLUSION

- 6.1** At our school we teach a modern foreign language to all children, whatever their ability. A modern foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress.

7 ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

7.1 We assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. We do this informally during the lessons, and also by regular testing to evaluate what the children have learned.

8 RESOURCES

8.1 We use MFL Sunderland as our core resource. We also have a selection of CDs, videos and DVDs; books, games and artefacts.

9 MONITORING AND REVIEW

9.1 The Principal monitors teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach in the school.

9.2 The Principal also liaises with the local secondary schools, so that they are aware of the modern foreign language experience of our children when they move to the next phase of their education.

9.3 This policy will be reviewed at least every 2 years

Principal:	Mrs Sharpe	Date:	November 2019
Subject Leader	Mrs B Lillie	Date:	November 2019

REVIEW DATE: September 2021