

Bill Quay Primary School



Languages Policy

Rationale:

Learning a foreign language helps us to look beyond ourselves and deepen our understanding of other cultures of the world in which we live. It further develops our skills in communication, thinking and writing, and can build confidence and give transferable skills which will be valuable in later life.

Our Aims and Objectives in Teaching Languages:

We aim to ensure that all pupils:

- Can understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- Can speak with increasing fluency, confidence and spontaneity, improving the accuracy of their pronunciation over time
- Can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the vocabulary and structures they have learnt
- Discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

National Curriculum for Languages:

Through our aims and objectives as listed above and also through our Languages scheme, we are able to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum for Languages, which are:

- To listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- To explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- To engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
- To speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures
- To develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
- To present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences
- To read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- To appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language
- To broaden the vocabulary and develop the ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary
- To write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly
- To describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing
- To understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, including (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms and the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English.

Teaching and Learning:

The schemes of work we use allow progression and differentiation so that children of all abilities are able to access the Languages curriculum and develop their skills. At Bill Quay Primary School, we have chosen to teach French throughout Key Stage 2 (KS2). It is not compulsory to teach Languages prior to KS2, but we do introduce some simple songs in other languages to Key Stage 1 (KS1) pupils, and also introduce them to some simple words and phrases. All KS2 pupils learn French, regardless of ability. We work to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, and those with special gifts and talents, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. We use the iLanguages Scheme of Work in KS2, supplemented by additional speaking tasks and opportunities.

Key Stage 1:

We introduce KS1 pupils to some of the basic, key French words during whole-school singing sessions which include simple French songs, and during our annual French Culture Day (which celebrates the European Festival of Languages each September)./ All pupils and staff use some French phrases throughout the day. These words include basic greetings, 'please' and 'thank-you' and 'yes' and 'no'.

Key Stage 2:

Each class in KS2 receives a weekly discrete French lesson, following the school scheme of work. The units teach and reinforce the key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing the French language, and offer opportunities for progression, building on and revisiting skills already taught as well as introducing new vocabulary, grammar and phrases as appropriate. Our teaching is based on the key pillars of phonics, vocabulary and grammar. Songs, games and stories are used throughout the curriculum to help learn and embed knowledge and skills.

Some French songs are included as appropriate in the weekly singing assembly.

Whole School: embedding basic skills:

We have a weekly achievement award for French, and key words for each topic are displayed in classrooms and easily accessible in lessons in our Knowledge Organisers. French activities are also included in the menu of home learning tasks offered to pupils. Each KS2 class has some French reading books in their Reading Corner to enrich their learning further. The whole school participates in our annual French Culture Day, which enriches their learning with a creative combination of language, history, art, music, food and general cultural learning.

Cross-curricular links:

Wherever possible, cross-curricular links are made with music and other subjects. In particular, we use singing and music listening skills as we teach the French language and explore its culture, and other important links are made with geography, history and art.

Enrichment:

We encourage staff to attend any available Languages Continuing Professional Development and provide advice and support within school from a French specialist. The subject co-ordinator participates in the Languages Network meetings facilitated by the Local Authority.

When possible and appropriate, a French club is included on the carousel of after-school activities.

Assessment:

Children are assessed against the curriculum-related expectations as 'Working Towards' and 'Achieving' expectations. French is reported on at the end of each academic year in each child's school report. Any pupils showing real promise in Languages learning are also informally identified. Ongoing assessments are made during lessons each term, and pupils are assessed as 'Working Towards' or being at 'Expected' level at the end of each term by the Languages Co-ordinator. This assessment is made against three specific learning objectives each term. A final summative assessment takes place each July using materials provided in the iLanguages Scheme of Work.

We are building a record of the development of knowledge and understanding of French at our school through a diary of provision, events, achievements, participation, performances and staff training. This is supplemented with recordings, photographs and informal observations.

Equality and Diversity:

It is the responsibility of all teachers at Bill Quay Primary School to ensure that all pupils irrespective of ability, race, gender, age, faith, sexual orientation, and disability are given full access to the Languages curriculum and make the greatest possible progress in accordance with recent legislation.

The French programme of study enables pupils to understand some of the language, culture, history and traditions of France and other French-speaking countries, which in turn helps with their understanding of our world.