

## **St Edmund's Catholic Primary School**

### **Modern Foreign Languages Policy**

#### **Purpose of Study**

Learning a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. We aim to develop children's experience of language acquisition and encourage curiosity about languages through learning French. Children are encouraged to develop their understanding of what they hear and read, and their ability to express themselves in speech and writing. The children are able to develop their knowledge and understanding of how language works and explore similarities and differences between French and English. We also aim to strengthen children's sense of identity through learning about French culture and traditions, and comparing them to our own culture.

#### **Aims**

The new 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.*

#### **Organisation**

French is taught in a whole-class setting on a weekly basis by an MFL specialist. French lessons provide a variety of sources to model the language such as story books, PowerPoint presentations and teacher dialogue, and games and songs are used to maximise enjoyment. Lessons focus on speaking and listening. However, when appropriate, children record written work, which is retained by the teacher as evidence of the children's progress.

#### **National Curriculum Guidelines**

The National Curriculum states that pupils should be taught to:

- listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words
- engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
- speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures
- develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
- present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences
- read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language
- broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary
- write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly
- describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing

Children learn to listen, respond and speak in French and begin to express their opinions and justify them. Children also begin to read and write simple sentences and use a bilingual dictionary to source their own vocabulary. Children also learn about French culture and traditions and compare them with our own. A multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching is used in some of the games, rhymes and songs to reinforce memory. Children are able to discuss how the language works, and noticing similarities and differences between French and English is encouraged. Links are also made between French and other languages that children may speak at home. Children are encouraged to express themselves in French and praised for their attempts to communicate both orally and in writing. We aim to foster a positive attitude to learning a foreign language.

### **Assessment**

Children's ability, confidence and progress are assessed through ongoing teacher assessment during lessons, and samples of independent written work are also used to assess progress.

### **Wider Opportunities and Transition**

We work with the other schools in the Abingdon MFL Network to share good practice and resources. This network includes the secondary schools, who share information about what they would like the children to know when they move up to Year 7. French lessons in Years 5 and 6 in particular are planned to meet these criteria where possible.

Children in KS2 take part in the annual Abingdon Schools 'Festival of Languages', visiting a local secondary school to take part in a range of language related games and activities with children from other primary and secondary schools.

The whole school take part in our own Mother Tongue Day, when each class focusses on a country and learns about the culture and language of that country. Each class then shares their learning with parents and the rest of the school by preparing and running a stall in the Hall during the afternoon.

French is also offered as an extra-curricular lunchtime club in Key Stage 1.

### **Monitoring and Review**

A MFL specialist teacher delivers the French curriculum during class teacher PPA time, ensuring consistency of provision. The MFL governor meets regularly with the MFL Leader to monitor subject delivery and discuss how to improve provision.

MFL Governor- Mr Simon Robson

MFL Subject Leader-Mrs Fiona Semple

Policy written: April 2015

Policy reviewed: June 2018

Next review date: June 2021