

Modern Foreign Languages Policy



2020

Review: September 2021 – unless there are changes required sooner, in which case this policy will be reviewed earlier.

Lead: C Rosser

Introduction

Learning a foreign language is part of the primary National Curriculum and is a requirement for all children within key stage 2 (KS2).

At The Grange Primary School (TGPS), we believe that Modern Foreign Languages is an important and integral part of our pupils' experience at school. The learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for the pupils. "In the knowledge society of the 21st century, language competence and intercultural understanding are not optional extras; they are an essential part of being a citizen. Language skills are also vital in improving understanding between people here and in the wider world, and in supporting global citizenship by breaking down barriers of ignorance and suspicion between nations. Learning other languages gives us insight into the people, culture and traditions of other countries, and helps us to understand our own language and culture." (LANGUAGES FOR ALL – LANGUAGES FOR LIFE (DFE))

Aims and Objectives of Modern Foreign Languages Education at TGPS

Our aim is to develop the confidence and competence of each child in the foreign language they are learning. Our goal is for them to be passionate, curious and confident about their own foreign language learning abilities when they finish the primary school phase of their education.

We will help them develop and demonstrate substantial progress in the 5 key language skills necessary for learning French:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar

We aim to ensure that pupils of all abilities develop solid foundations in these key language learning skills - properly preparing them for the next stage of their language learning journey. These skills will develop children's ability to understand what they hear and read and enable them to express themselves in speech and writing. We will extend their knowledge of how language works and explore the similarities and differences between the foreign language they are learning and English. We will also help strengthen their sense of identity through learning about culture in other countries and comparing it with their own.

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 their 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.

The objectives of learning a Modern Foreign Language in primary school are to:

- foster an interest in learning other languages.
- introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun.
- stimulate and encourage children's curiosity about language.
- encourage children to be aware that language has structure and that the structure differs from one language to another.
- help the children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries.
- develop their speaking and listening skills.
- lay the foundations for future study.
- extend language teaching beyond mother tongue learning.

Intent and Implementation of Modern Foreign Languages

We plan our Modern Foreign Language curriculum in accordance with the National Curriculum guidance and objectives for Key Stage 2. We recognise the importance of pupils' all-round personal development and the leading role that Modern Foreign Language plays in contributing to the social, emotional and academic elements. We ensure that the units studied in Modern Foreign Languages builds upon prior learning. Opportunities for all children to develop their skills and knowledge are provided in each unit. The planned progression offers the children an increasing challenge as they progress through school.

The Grange Primary School's Foundation Curriculum document has been developed to map out the progression and learning for each foundation subject. The French section details the year group specific coverage of skills (see Appendix A). This was used to inform each year group's long, medium and short term planning as follows:

- The long term plan demonstrates the timeframe for each skill to be taught (Appendix B);
- The medium term plan gives details of the specific objectives to be taught (Appendix C);
- The short term plan specifies the activities and resources for each lesson.

French is taught in a whole-class setting by a language specialist.

The Teacher plans their lessons using the Language Angels scheme of work and can supplement this with their own ideas and experience and those of their colleagues.

The lessons are designed to motivate, captivate and interest children from the first moment. They have clear, achievable objectives and incorporate different learning styles. SEN children have access to the curriculum through variation of task, grouping or support from an adult.

Each KS2 class has a timetabled lesson of at least 1 hour per week.

French lessons include:

- PowerPoints and interactive whiteboard materials
- Interactive games (which pupils can access from home to consolidate their learning)
- Songs & raps
- Differentiated desk-based consolidation activities
- Worksheets (at three different levels of challenge) are provided throughout each teaching unit and can be used in class or can be sent home to be completed as a homework exercise

Each lesson will focus on a combination of the 5 key language learning skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar).

Differentiation and Access

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping. French is planned to take account of the needs and abilities of all pupils. Careful differentiation will take place to ensure that all pupils, including children with SEND, can contribute to, and benefit from, the French provision in school. It is the responsibility of the class teacher to provide a curriculum that is inclusive.

Impact of Modern Foreign Languages

The medium term planning includes the objectives and assessment criteria for each lesson which is shared with the pupils through the use of rubrics. Teachers assess pupils against the assessment rubrics to inform them of pupil progress. Pupils assess their own work against the rubrics to inform themselves of their progress.

Monitoring of the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching in Modern Foreign Languages is the responsibility of the subject team. This is done by:

- Planning scrutiny
- Assessing children's work
- Pupil interviews
- Lesson observations
- Learning walks
- Regular resource audits

The work of the Modern Foreign Language subject team also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of Modern Foreign Language, being informed about current developments in the subject and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The team evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in the subjects and indicates areas for further improvement. The Modern Foreign Language subject team has specially allocated time (when needed) to fulfil this role.

Communication skills

At The Grange Primary we believe in a communicative approach in which all pupils can actively engage in meaningful tasks. French will be exploited to the maximum. Greatest emphasis will be given to speaking and listening, with writing and some reading where relevant.

The children are taught how to:

- ask and answer questions.
- use correct pronunciation and grammar.
- memorise words.
- interpret meaning.
- understand basic grammar.
- use dictionaries.
- work in pairs and groups and communicate in French.
- look at life in another culture.

Learning will:

- have clear, achievable objectives.
- be carefully planned and structured.
- be practical, active and varied.
- involve the use of ICT where appropriate.
- include whole class, small group and pair work.
- promote success and self-esteem.

At The Grange Primary School, we have adopted KAGAN structures which promote talk and thinking. Children are provided with extensive opportunities to talk and share their ideas.

Links with other Areas of the Curriculum

Learning another language presents opportunities for the reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other curriculum areas. These opportunities can be exploited through aspects of:

- English: development of speaking and listening skills, knowledge and understanding of grammar and sentence construction. Opportunities to compare the foreign language with English or another language can be exploited through use of the new alphabet, phonemes, rhyming patterns, sound/spelling links, dictionary work, formation of structures, intonation, dialogues, poetry, different text types, formation of complex sentences;
- ICT: use of materials from the internet, video and audio, presentation of data, word-processing;
- Citizenship: the multilingual society, knowledge of other countries and cultures;
- Mathematics: counting, calculations, the time and the date, money;
- Geography: work relating to the study of other countries, weather;
- Science: work on parts of the body, animals;
- Music: rhyming, rhythm, singing, world music;
- RE: international or multicultural work, celebration of festivals, storytelling, calendars, customs;
- History: work relating to the study of other countries, family trees of famous people;
- Art: descriptions of paintings, work of famous artists;
- PE: physical responses to the teacher's instructions issued in the language being learnt, sports and hobbies.

