

Gravenhurst Academy

Modern Foreign Languages (French) Policy



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 Gravenhurst Academy, French is taught to all pupils in years 3 and 4.

Aims

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 leave Gravenhurst Academy.

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.

Teaching and Learning Overview

Our whole school approach to language teaching and learning is in line with the recommendations of the National Curriculum and the requirements outlined in the Department for Education Languages Programme of Study for Key Stage 2.

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 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 authentic writing in the language studied.

By the end of key stage 2, pupils should be able to:

1. Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding.
2. Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words.
3. Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help.
4. Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures.
5. Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases.
6. Present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences.
7. Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing.
8. Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language.
9. Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary.
10. Write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly.
11. Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing.
12. 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.

Organisation & Delivery

French is taught in a whole-class setting (mixed class of Year 3 & 4) by a bilingual French speaking teacher. It is timetabled as one lesson of at least thirty minutes per week. The French Curriculum delivered at Gravenhurst combines the best of specific Schemes of Work to teach this subject area. This ranges from the Wakefield scheme of work (published by La Jolie Ronde) to a scheme created by a Regional French Advisory Teacher. The aim of combining these different schemes is to provide a varied approach to excite and enthuse children who are beginning their language learning journey. The lessons 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.

French lessons include:

- PowerPoints and interactive whiteboard materials
- Interactive games
- Songs & raps
- Differentiated desk-based consolidation activities
- Basic written tasks to complement the theme being learnt

Lessons will combine 5 key language learning skills across each theme (speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar).

Resources

The school uses a range of resources that include online links (e.g for songs, interactive games) and Twinkl's MFL French Resources to support the teaching of this subject. There are also books, flash cards, CDs and DVDs to support the teaching of MFL which are stored centrally for all to access.

Teaching & Learning

Where appropriate, basic theme related written tasks are completed to consolidate children's learning. This is evidenced in each child's French book to become part of a portfolio of their learning.

Assessment of Pupil Learning & Progression

We assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. We do this informally during the lessons.

Monitoring and Evaluation

We monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach in the school. This is also through ongoing Formative Assessments of the children in their learning of the subject. The subject and its ongoing progress is reviewed by the Subject Lead alongside the Principal.

Reviewed by Principal December 2023

Next review due: December 2025.