

Rationale

At Wybunbury Delves we aim to 'light the spark for a love of learning and of life' and feel that the learning of a language fosters children's curiosity, develops skills of language and literacy and deepens their understanding of the world and their place in it.

Curriculum Intent

The new National Curriculum for 2014 sets out why we teach French in schools:

'Learning another language provides an opening to other cultures and keeps us from becoming insular. A high-quality languages education should foster pupil's curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. It allows children to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and writing. It provides opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes and learn new ways of thinking. Language teaching should provide a foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.'

The aims of French in our school are:

We aim to foster a love of, and curiosity about, languages. To develop children's understanding of what they hear and read, and their ability to express themselves in speech and writing. To extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences between French and English. We also aim to strengthen their sense of identity through learning about culture in other countries and comparing it to their own.

Curriculum Implementation

Our carefully crafted curriculum balances the national expectations and an all-encompassing range of experiences allowing our children to flourish. Clear strategic planning allows the curriculum to be dynamic and adapt to the context of the school and children's needs. Age related expectations combine the acquisition of knowledge and development of skills to create a purposeful and exciting learning journey for every child.

Curriculum & School Organisation

The National Curriculum (2014) is used as the basis for the planning of pupil's entitlement, subject coverage and progression in the teaching of French. French is taught in each Key Stage two class for half an hour weekly and elements of the French language are introduced in EYFS and Key Stage 2. French is taught as a discrete subject though cross curricular links will be made where relevant. Our emphasis is on spoken language with elements of written language. Cultural awareness is promoted through enrichment opportunities.

Teaching and learning style

In lessons, the emphasis is on communicating and having fun! The teaching of French at Wybunbury Delves enables children to spend much of their time in language lessons speaking, listening and interacting and where and when appropriate recording in the written form. They take part in role-plays, conversations and question and answer work, sing songs and recite, perform to an audience as well as play games and take turns.

We recognise that in all classes there are children of different abilities in French and we seek to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this by setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses and increase in the level of difficulty.

Equality and Inclusion

All pupils regardless of gender, cultural heritage, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or special needs, will be given the opportunity to experience and acquire skills according to the National Curriculum. We believe that we should aim to create an environment in which all children learn to respect and value each other and each other's interests. This can be achieved by employing the following strategies:

- Mixing groups in terms of gender and ability.
- Setting suitable learning challenges.
- Structuring activities so all are fully involved. For instance, all children must have a 'job/role' within an activity to ensure everyone takes part and is involved.
- Responding to the diverse learning needs of pupils.
- Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups.
- Considering the needs of children with physical or learning difficulties and taking the necessary steps (by enlisting extra help, adapting equipment or differentiating tasks) to ensure they have equal access to the curriculum.
- Giving all the children an opportunity to share their work. For instance, allowing time at the end of a lesson for the whole class to perform a role play, share their ideas or work with the class.

- Recognising the need to extend and provide a greater challenge for more able pupils.

Curriculum Enhancement Opportunities

In the summer term, we plan to introduce a new enrichment opportunity – a French café - which will give children the opportunity to use their new language skills in a ‘real’ situation. Where possible, MFL speakers will be invited in to school.

Resourcing

The Subject Leader is responsible for maintaining the French resources in school and monitoring their use.

- Resources for the teaching of French are stored in the Blue Room and are available to all staff.
- Resources include: written resources, French Story books (also CD Rom versions), Mon Ane - DVD, CDs – musical, French dictionaries and word books, posters and website links to sites such as Lightbulb Learning.
- A shared resource bank on the school’s T:Drive has been created.
- Teaching staff also provide children with the opportunity to see French outside the classroom with special days organised eg French Café
- People with expertise may be invited into school and visitors are welcomed who can enhance the learning of a language.

Curriculum Impact

We use monitoring throughout the year to gauge the impact of the curriculum design. Monitoring the standard of children’s work and the quality of teaching in French is the responsibility of the French Subject Leader. The French Subject Leader monitors the subject by doing the following: reviewing learning, evaluating pupil voice, inviting in a ‘Critical Friend’, providing individual feedback to move practice forward, celebrating positives and highlighting areas of development. Our whole school team strengthen our ethos and vision as we work together to reflect upon our curriculum and share outcomes driving forward next steps; the French Subject Leader is responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of French, informing staff of developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school. The French Subject Leader provides an annual curriculum review and feedback form which will be shared with Governors at the annual Curriculum meeting.

With regards to assessment, it is being developed and will be reviewed at the start of the next academic year. Currently, children’s learning is monitored and assessed during the lesson through teacher observations and pupil self-evaluation. We consider the main criterion of success to be that children move on from Wybunbury Delves to their secondary schools with a sound basic knowledge of some linguistic structures and associated vocabulary and with an enthusiasm to learn more.

Curriculum Risk Assessment

Staff are asked to use professional judgment with regard to pupil safety in individual lessons. Where it is deemed necessary, individual lesson risk assessments will be completed. The pro forma for this is in the Subject Leader folder on the t:drive. All staff have access to the school Curriculum Health and Safety Guidance in the head teacher’s office.

Links with other subjects

Links will be made with other subjects where appropriate such as artists in French or Music. Some phonics and grammar will be taught in French and links made to similarities and differences in English grammar and spelling.

Reviewed by subject leader: October 2020