



Buckstones Community Primary School

Policy for Languages (French)



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Adopted by Governors: 20th. September 2022

Introduction

Learning a foreign language is part of the primary National Curriculum and is a requirement for all children within Key Stage 2 (KS2). Buckstones Primary School has adopted a whole school approach to the teaching of French to all pupils in KS2.

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 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

It is our aim that by embedding these key skills, we can then lay the foundations for future language learning.

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, our 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.

Our Teaching and Learning Overview

1. Intent

The intention of the Languages curriculum at Buckstones Primary School is that children are taught to develop an interest in learning another language in a way that is enjoyable and stimulating. We intend to use the Language Angels scheme of work and resources to offer a relevant, broad, vibrant and ambitious foreign languages curriculum that will inspire and excite our pupils using a wide variety of topics and themes.

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 will 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.

Learning French can lead pupils to develop a genuine interest in and positive curiosity about foreign languages. The intention is that they will be working towards becoming life-long language learners. It is intended that when children leave Buckstones, they understand that it is a valuable skill to be able to communicate effectively with others in another language. We hope that their language learning at primary school will provide the foundation for learning further languages at secondary school and beyond (perhaps even studying or working in another country in the future).

2. Implementation

At Buckstones, we believe in a communicative approach in which all pupils can actively engage in meaningful tasks. Greatest emphasis is given to speaking and listening, with the addition of simple reading and writing skills as pupils progress. We also believe it is important for French to be seen around school; it features on a display board in the shared Junior Craft bay and also around individual classrooms (where space allows).

Our MFL curriculum is designed to progressively develop children's skills in languages, through weekly taught lessons in KS2. Teachers deliver French lessons using the Language Angels Scheme plans, which are modified where necessary to suit the needs of our pupils. We use a multi-sensory approach to teaching French, using games, rhymes and songs in our lessons, as we believe this serves to reinforce memory. We make lessons as enjoyable as possible so that the children develop a positive attitude to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build the children's confidence through praise for any contribution they make, however tentative.

Children progressively acquire, use and apply a growing bank of vocabulary organised around topics. They are encouraged and supported to develop their speaking and listening skills through conversational work, singing activities and games. As confidence and skill grows, children record their work through a range of tailored activities.

Units are progressive within themselves as subsequent lessons within a unit build on the language and knowledge taught in previous lessons. As pupils progress through the lessons in a unit they will build their knowledge and develop the complexity of the language they use. Prior knowledge will be revisited regularly so that the knowledge taught is more likely to be retained by the children. Learners should then be able to apply the skills they have been taught to a variety of settings, showing increasing confidence and independence with their learning.

In KS1, children have the opportunity to take part in French Club In KS1, where they take part in fun activities, games and songs to help them to develop awareness of basic French words and phrases.

3. Impact

We have only recently started to use the Language Angels scheme to deliver our teaching of French, so this will take time to embed. Using the scheme's plans provides us with a clear structure and enables us to ensure continuity and progression in the children's key language skills. We aim to ensure that children recognise and apply key vocabulary within conversations and will be challenged in a range of speaking and listening tasks, as well as reading and writing activities. The ultimate aim is that the vast majority of children are able to access work at age-related expectations.

Through the high quality first teaching of French taking place, we will see the impact of the subject in the following ways. Children will:

- become aware that a language has a structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another.
- develop their language and communication through development of the four key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- enrich their language learning by developing an understanding of the French culture.
- be well prepared to continue and develop their language skills as they transfer to KS3.

Organisation and Delivery

We teach French in a whole-class KS2 setting; lessons are planned using the Language Angels scheme of work but staff can supplement this with their own ideas and experience and those of their colleagues. Lessons are designed to motivate, captivate and interest children from the first moment, and objectives are clear and achievable.

Each class has a timetabled lesson of approximately thirty minutes per week of French. It can also be revisited in short sessions throughout the week to consolidate knowledge and ensure new language is retained. Each lesson will focus on a combination of the 5 key language learning skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar).

In their French lessons, pupils are taught 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

Assessment

Pupils' work is assessed informally on the basis of observation during the lesson; this is particularly important for oral work. To complement this, two forms of assessment are available at the end of every Language Angels unit:

1. Peer and self-assessment 'I can do...' grids. This is a quick and easy way for all pupils in the class to record which units they have completed and the progress they are making.
2. More detailed skills-based assessments; this form of assessment enables us to determine the learning and progression of all pupils in the key language learning skills as well as monitoring their progress against the 12 attainment targets stipulated in the DfE Languages Programme of Study for Key Stage 2.

Teaching languages to pupils with SEND

At Buckstones Primary School we teach languages French to all children, whatever their ability. Languages form part of the school's commitment to providing a broad and balanced education to all children.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring of the standards of the children's work and of the quality of teaching in Languages is the responsibility of the Languages subject leader. It is important to monitor the impact that teaching is having on the children's learning, to ensure that knowledge and skills are being taught progressively. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of French, being informed about current developments in the subject, and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

Monitoring and moderation takes place regularly through:

- Monitoring of planning
- Learning Walks

- Observations
- Scrutiny of Books/Work
- Moderation of work
- Discussions with Pupils/Pupil Voice Questionnaires
- Staff Meetings and Staff Audits
- Meetings/observations with the nominated governor

This policy will be reviewed every three years by staff and governors.

Date of next review: September 2024