Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum Statement

At St. Patrick’s Catholic Primary School, we want every child to be enthusiastic learners of French and to be eager to achieve their very best in order to fulfil their God-given talents. We firmly believe that the recipe for success is high quality first-wave teaching in French, which is central to the life of our happy, caring school.

Intent – What we are trying to achieve?

• Our principal aim is that children leave St. Patrick’s Catholic Primary school with a wide range of happy and rich memories in French formed through interesting and exciting experiences driven through vehicles that enhance a child’s awareness of their own abilities and strengths as a learner, thus ensuring that children see learning a foreign language as an ongoing process and not a one-off event.

• Children will meet the National Curriculum expectations in French, which will be taught by highly-qualified staff who will support children to develop the mastery of concepts and inspire enthusiasm and interest in the subject.

• All Key Stage Two children will study French for 30 minutes per week/ 1 hour a fortnight.

• Opportunities will exist for children of all ages to experience learning beyond the classroom. This will allow them to enrich their knowledge by, for example, creative workshop days at our feeder high schools or visitors to school who may read stories in the language or share their experiences of living in France.

• Children will develop a deep understanding of the subjects they are studying. They will increasingly use their prior knowledge to solve problems and develop the sophistication of French.

• Children will understand how Catholic virtues and British Values relate to French.

• In French, children will develop the skills to appropriately understand, speak, read, write and transcribe phrases, as well as use and manipulate a variety of key grammatical structures.

Scheme of Learning

The Scheme of Learning follows the National Curriculum. It allows for appropriate sequencing and aims to secure long-term memory as well as the enjoyment of learning a MFL. The link is:

https://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources/PrimaryFrench/KS2-Framework-progression-by-strand.pdf

The key areas of speaking and listening, reading and writing, and grammar are developed throughout KS2 in order to prepare children for secondary education.

Implementation – How do we translate our vision into practice?

• The curriculum hours in French are non-negotiable and will be followed by all staff in the school. Fixed timetables will be set before the academic year and monitored by the Senior Leadership Team of the school.

• Subject specialists from our partner secondary school of Painsley Catholic College are, and will continue to be, integral to the planning process. This will aid transition to Key Stage 3.

• Where necessary, staff will receive training in French.
• Carefully designed schemes of learning in French ensure consistency and progress of all learners.

• Vehicles drive learning throughout the term. Therefore, wherever possible, French is taught through the vehicle.

• Vehicles include French speakers, trips to drama productions, innovative use of technology to name but a few.

• Success criteria in every French lesson are set in order to guide children to achieve their potential. This ensures work is demanding and matches the aims of the curriculum.

• High quality input from experts and educational resources complement the delivery of specialist learning admirably. Children understand how French is used in the wider world including careers.

Assessment

Each lesson will include live marking (as per the Marking and Feedback Policy). Books will be marked fortnightly following the Marking and Feedback Policy. Homework is not formally set in MFL but children are encouraged to take part in enrichment opportunities such as listening to a foreign radio station or trying foreign foods. High quality teaching responds to the needs of children. Spiral learning is a key focus of all formative and summative assessment with teachers actively marking work in lessons in order to identify misconceptions early. An assessment grid is used to formally record an overview of progress of each child.

Cross-curricular opportunities

French is taught through the vehicle where possible. This results in excellent cross-curricular opportunities. For example, a vehicle focusing on health and nutrition will result in the language lessons including vocab on the topic along with a study of the wellbeing of people in France. Additional opportunities, such as eating French food, will also be encouraged in the vehicle. This ensures that children are engaged and interested in the subject through the excitement of the vehicle. It also allows for the British Values of tolerance and respect to be highlighted, understood and practised by children.

Cultural Capital

• Children will learn about key figures from French history such as St Bernadette, William the Conquerer, Napoleon, Louis Pasteur, Gustave Eiffell, Coco Chanel and Claude Monet.

They will also experience the following during Key Stage 2:

• Meeting and talking to native speakers
• Email communication with French children
• Video conferencing with a French school
• French publications (such as newspapers) and books
• Listening to French radio
• Listening to French music
• Watching French television programmes and/or films
• Eating French food
• Gain an understanding from a business leader regarding the importance of learning a language
Impact – What is the impact of our curriculum on the students?

- Children are happy, feel cared for, and have excellent relationships with others. They know how to deal with challenges and have a range of strategies to overcome them.

- Through French, children deepen their appreciation of their faith and fulfil their God-given talents

- Cultural capital opportunities have enriched the lives of the children and they are able to discuss how the experience impacted their knowledge and understanding.

- Children of all abilities and backgrounds achieve well in French, reflected in outstanding progress that reveals a clear learning journey. Children talk enthusiastically about their learning in French and are eager to further their learning in the next stages of their education. The objectives of each Year group can be found at:

  https://lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-primary.htm

- There is a proven track record of outstanding outcomes as shown in pupils’ ability in French in the areas of oracy, literacy, intercultural understanding and their knowledge about the language. Their books and views reveal their enjoyment of the subject. These indicators reflect the impact of deep learning.

- Clear outcomes focus and guide French development plans and drive improvement.

- Fundamental British Values are evident in the school and understood by all members of the community.

- Through wider reading and experiences in French, children will gain an appreciation and understanding of the country and some of its historical links to other parts of the world and historical events.