

Ombersley Endowed First School Modern Foreign Languages (MfL) Policy



Named co-ordinator: Mrs Lisa Whitby

Date policy agreed: Summer 2017

Review Date: Summer 2020

This policy outlines the teaching, organisation and management of Modern Foreign Languages (MfL) taught and learnt at Ombersley Endowed First School.

The policy has been drawn up as a result of staff discussion and has the full agreement of the Governing Body. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teaching staff of MfL. The responsibility for monitoring and review rests with the MfL co-ordinator Mrs Lisa Whitby.

Ombersley Endowed First School recognises the value of introducing a foreign language to children in the primary school. We will provide age-appropriate Primary Languages learning opportunities for all children in Years 3 – 4. The focus language taught in our school is French.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are:

- to foster an interest in learning other languages;
- to introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- to develop their speaking and listening skills;
- to lay the foundations for future study.
- to promote interest in exploring, improving understanding of and showing respect for different cultural diversity.

Organisation

In accordance with the KS2 Framework for languages, French is offered to all KS2 children for 45 minutes. A further 15 minutes is made up of day-to-day registration activities such as counting, introducing the date etc. The Class Teacher / HLTA delivers the lessons.

The Curriculum

French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school. The curriculum that we follow is based on the Key Stage 2 Framework for MFL and the revised National Curriculum. We follow the 'Rising Stars New Primary French' scheme of work. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ask and answer questions;
- use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- memorise words;
- interpret meaning;
- understand basic grammar;
- use dictionaries;
- work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other language;
- examine aspects of life in another culture.

Teaching and learning style

We base the teaching on the 'Rising Stars New Primary French' Scheme of Work. Whilst we follow the Scheme of Work developed, it is adapted to the context of our school and the abilities of our children.

We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs). We often use DVDs, interactive resources and CDs in order to expose the children to more than one voice in the foreign language. We frequently use mime to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language, as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation. We emphasise Listening and Speaking skills over Reading and Writing skills in Year 3 but all four skills and especially independent Reading and Writing become increasingly important with progression in Year 4. After two years of language learning most children will be able to read, write and short phrases of familiar French, will have an understanding of some French culture, will have a basic understanding of some language structure, which they can apply to another language, will be able to hold a short, simple conversation and understand a range of familiar language vocabulary.

We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, i.e. we try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

Assessment

Most assessment in French is formative and is used to support teaching and learning and inform future planning. Assessments are based on observation of children working on different oral activities and (where appropriate) written product. For reporting purposes, pupil's attainments in listening, speaking, reading and writing are provided to parents, reflecting the child's knowledge and understanding of the National Curriculum for Languages (Speaking, Listening, Reading Writing).

Out of School Learning

Where possible at least one language club a year is organised outside of school hours. Historically, we have run a Spanish Club and a French club.

Monitoring and review

We monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach in the school. The governors' curriculum committee has the responsibility of monitoring the success of the teaching in French.

Signed:

Date: June 2017