

Modern Foreign Languages Curriculum Statement

2021 - 2022

Intent

At Alverton School we foster a love of language. Modern Foreign Languages is an exciting and diverse subject and, through teaching it, we aim to foster children's curiosity, knowledge, confidence and resilience in speaking different languages from Reception through to Year 6. This includes learning about the everyday life and culture of people living in France and Spain and developing the children's understanding of the world. Children learn to communicate with increasing confidence and fluency, finding ways of conveying what they want to say through discussion and questioning.

We are committed to ensuring that competence in another language enables children to interpret, create and exchange meaning within and across cultures. We also want to help children develop skills that will open further opportunities later in life.

Following Covid-19, we have increased our focus on basic skills and meeting any learning "gaps", including in MFL.

Implementation

At Alverton, we teach French in Key Stage 2. Lessons are taught in discrete weekly lessons for half an hour and reinforced in opportunities through the school day such as during registration, greetings and when children are given instructions. French vocabulary is displayed in classrooms for children to refer back to when having a conversation.

A new scheme has been implemented at the start of the academic year called 'Language Angels' that provides lessons across the key stage to support the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

- Language Angels supports both the specialist and non specialist teacher. Interactive lesson materials, with all instances of the foreign language pre-recorded using a native speaker, are fully controlled by the teacher.
- Teachers are given the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of differentiated activities and worksheets to embed knowledge, consolidate learning and ensure whole class learning. Activities cover all of the main language learning skills – speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar.
- Language Angels provides a full range of fun and exciting karaoke videos and interactive games which pupils can also access from home. These are designed to consolidate the teaching that has already taken place.
- The unit planners cover the medium and long-term planning and details which units are relevant to to each year group at Alverton school for each half-term of the school year. It ensures each pupil is challenged and stretched, all the requirements of DfE Languages Programme of Study for KS2 are met to enable substantial learning and progression.
- The scheme provides a range of cross-curricular units. These include The Tudors, World War II, Healthy Eating, The Romans, Habitats and The Planets which link with children's learning in other subjects.
- Each of the teaching units contain 6 teaching lessons with each lesson designed to run for between 30 to 45 minutes. The resources are grouped by the level of challenge and stretch they provide. This makes it easier to pick and choose units that will ensure pupils are always learning and progressing.
- Additional resources such as French songs, BBC Bitesize and other 'real life' French scenarios are used to support and further supplement the Language Angels scheme.

At Alverton, we introduce pupils to Spanish in Key Stage 1. We are lucky enough to have a teacher in Key Stage 1 who speaks fluent Spanish so teachers are able to use his expertise. In the EYFS, children are taught welcome and goodbye songs in both English and French so they can hear the direct translation as well as some basic numbers and colours.

Our curriculum is fully inclusive and we ensure all children have the same entitlement to a broad curriculum by making adaptations where needed. The Language Angels scheme provides opportunity for music, songs, and plenty of visuals to support all learning styles.

Impact

MFL in Key Stage 2 has enabled children to develop their confidence in speaking aloud and having conversations in French with their friends and members of staff. Children's curiosity has been sparked in MFL and teachers are noticing them getting very excited about the subject by asking questions, making links and wanting to find out more. By using French throughout the school day, a context for learning and language development is provided as well as increasing the children's understanding of different cultures.

In Key Stage 1, children enjoy and get excited about learning Spanish. By the end of the year some children are able to have a basic conversation in Spanish about themselves and their family and are curious to learn French in Key Stage 2.

The teaching of French in Key Stage 2 provides an appropriate balance of spoken and written language and lays the foundations for further foreign language teaching at Key Stage 3. As well as hearing French speaking around the school, examples of children's written work will also be displayed.

We use a range of assessments and programs such as 'Quizziz' and 'Wordwall' to assess children's long term memory of vocabulary and phrases. We ensure in particular that regular assessment in relation to intervention ensures that these are accurately focused on the correct pupils, enabling maximum progress to be made.