



Atherton Sacred Heart RC Primary School

Primary Languages [French]

'Learning a foreign language is a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures. A high-quality languages education should foster pupils' curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world. The teaching should enable pupils to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. It should also provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, learn new ways of thinking and read great literature in the original language. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping pupils to study and work in other countries.'

Purpose of Study, National Curriculum

Introduction

At Sacred Heart RC Primary School we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for our pupils. It helps them to develop communication skills including the key skills of speaking and listening and extends their knowledge of how language works. Learning another language gives children a new perspective on the world, encouraging them to understand their own cultures and those of others. As part of the National Curriculum, all Key Stage 2 pupils must now learn another language in school time. At Sacred Heart RC Primary School, we have chosen to teach French to all children in KS2.

Aims and Objectives

At Sacred Heart RC Primary School, language teaching ensures that all children have the opportunity to:

- 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;
- Write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt; and
- Discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studies.

Children will learn to:

- Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding;
- Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words;

- Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help;
- Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures;
- Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases;
- Present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences;
- Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing;
- Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language;
- Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary;
- Write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clearly;
- Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing; and
- 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.

Languages lessons

Children are taught these specific skills, concepts and vocabulary in weekly French lessons, with a French-speaking teacher, following a KS2 scheme of work. The content of these sessions is reinforced during the week.

Languages embedded into other lessons

Where appropriate, teachers give children opportunities to practise their foreign language in the context of lessons in other subject areas. For instance, some instructions may be given in French; or children may count in French, while carrying out a numeracy activity. This acts to reinforce the vocabulary and structures they have learned.

'Incidental' language

We aim for languages to be a part of the day-to-day life of the school. For example, teachers can use the foreign language to give simple classroom instructions ('come in quietly'; 'listen'; 'look'), to ask questions ('who wants school dinner?'; 'what's today's date?') and to take the register. Children can be encouraged to respond using the language they have learned, and sometimes teachers and pupils develop new language skills together, teachers acting as role models in the learning process. This integrated approach is a strong model for teaching and learning, giving children opportunities to use and develop their language for communicating in stress-free real-life contexts.

Inclusion

Primary Language teaching at Sacred Heart RC Primary is fully inclusive. No child is excluded by reason of a learning difficulty, or because they have English as an additional language. Experience has indeed shown that such children can derive particular benefit from taking part in Primary Language learning activities.

Language learning activities are planned in such a way as to encourage the full and active participation of all pupils. Work is differentiated as appropriate to the needs of individual children. Pairs and groups for collaborative work may be made up in different ways, depending on the task. Children who are linguistically gifted and talented are targeted with more demanding questions and given the opportunity to manipulate and extend the target language in pair and group work. Some tasks include a wider vocabulary and pupils are given the chance to choose what they include in their own work.

Planning and resources

Primary Language is planned following the broad guidelines set out in the National Curriculum. The school's Scheme of Work ensures that there is continuity and progression in both skills and content across all classes and year groups.

Monitoring progress and assessing attainment

Opportunities to monitor the children's progress in French are built into our programmes of study. Most assessment 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.

Links outside school

French gives us an ideal opportunity for making links outside school. We encourage children to share their experiences of visiting or living in other countries. We welcome visiting speakers who are able to talk about life in the countries where the focus language is spoken.

The role of the French Co-ordinator

- Inspire an enthusiasm for the subject and advise staff when necessary
- Ensure continuity of progression in work across the key stage and coverage of the National Curriculum
- Write and evaluate an annual action plan
- Monitor the scheme of work to ensure progression and continuity in French throughout the school
- Act in an advisory capacity and encourage 'good practice'
- Promote cross curriculum French
- Manage a budget and ordering and maintaining of all materials and resources
- Develop a common approach to assessment of the subject
- Take the lead in policy development and update the policy when required.

Date of Review: September 2017

Date of next review: September 2019