



How we teach French at Dunstable Icknield Lower School (DILS)

Introduction

Learning a foreign language is part of the Primary National Curriculum and is a requirement for all children within key stage 2 (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 DILS.

We will help them develop and demonstrate substantial progress in the 5 key language skills necessary for learning French :

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar

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 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.

Delivery – scheme of work	Subject teacher plans a progressive scheme of work to deliver active learning opportunities to develop French language skills.
Time allocation	Year 3 & Year 4 – 1:00 weekly
Subject evidence	Participation in simple conversation Joining in with songs and rhymes Recognising and using key vocabulary
Assessment	Assessment for learning during lessons Assessment using Arbor once per term
Reporting	Teacher reports progress in a written report
Tracking and monitoring	Subject leader completes book scrutiny, planning checks and collects pupil voice termly in liaison with SLT to ensure high quality progressive teaching and learning
Vocabulary	Key vocabulary is identified in our French vocab spine and explicitly taught within lessons. Pupils use their knowledge organisers to support retrieval.

Teaching and Learning

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, 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 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.

The content of topics being taught in French will be visible in individual classrooms for the current topic as well as knowledge organisers for instructions, colours and determiners. Each classroom has the vocabulary for the day, and date this is to be displayed on the whiteboard as is the topic vocabulary to be revisited in the register. The learning will be shared with parents through Google Classroom, they are encouraged to revisit this with their children through the songs and activities, homework will be set as appropriate in fun engaging ways. There will also be opportunities during children's primary education for them to explore in more depth particular cultural aspects of France. This could include experiences such as 'wow' French days involving food tasting or a 'wow' French day themed around Bastille Day.

Organisation & Delivery

French is taught in a whole-class setting by a class teacher who plans the lessons using a variety of resources. Planning follows the Wakefield Scheme of work, adapted for 1 weekly lesson rather than 4 x 15 mins, using a tailor made comprehensive horizontal mapping. Listening and speaking are the main focus using photographs, music and online resources. Role play and games are used to add interest. Reading is built in from the start of year 3 which develops the skill of writing in French. Writing is recorded in French folders created by the children as an assessment opportunity.

The lessons are designed to motivate, captivate and interest children from the first moment. They have clear, achievable objectives and incorporate different learning styles. SEN children have access to the curriculum through variation of task, grouping or support from an adult. Each class has a timetabled lesson of at least 45 minutes per week. In addition to this, French can also be revisited in short sessions throughout the week to consolidate knowledge and ensure new language is retained as appropriate.

French lessons include:

- Google classroom, slides and interactive whiteboard materials
- Interactive games (which pupils may be able to access from home to consolidate their learning)
- Songs & raps
- Differentiated desk-based consolidation activities
- Worksheets (at different levels of challenge)

Each lesson will focus on a combination of the 5 any of the key language learning skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar). Speaking, listening and reading are the foundations and as the children progress through the year writing and grammar language skills will be embedded. At DILS we assess these key skills in conjunction with each other to determine the attainment of children and identify the next steps in their learning.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Subject Leader monitors the effectiveness of the language teaching and progression in liaison with class teachers and through the topic assessment sheets. These are kept in the children's folder. The Subject Leader will organise, where appropriate, class assemblies and presentations in French. They will also integrate cross-curricular topics to be taught in French to knit together various areas of the curriculum.