

French: Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent

At Bishopton Primary School, the intent of the French curriculum is to foster a love of languages and an appreciation of French culture, encouraging curiosity and a lifelong interest in language learning. Learning French provides pupils with opportunities to communicate in another language and supports the development of confidence, independence and enjoyment in language use. It also promotes an understanding and appreciation of diverse Francophone cultures, helping pupils become respectful and open-minded global citizens.

The curriculum focuses on enabling pupils to understand and use basic vocabulary and phrases related to everyday topics such as greetings, family, school and food. Pupils develop their listening and speaking skills through interactive activities including songs, games and role-play. As pupils progress, they begin to understand simple elements of French grammar and sentence structure so that they can form basic sentences and questions. Cultural learning is also embedded within the curriculum, allowing pupils to explore aspects of French traditions, geography and everyday life in French-speaking countries.

The curriculum is designed to be inclusive and accessible for all pupils. Teaching approaches ensure that pupils of all abilities, including those with SEND and disadvantaged backgrounds, can engage successfully in language learning. Teachers use adapted resources, scaffolding and differentiated activities to maintain high expectations while supporting individual needs.

Implementation

French is taught in line with the National Curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages and is delivered through structured lessons in Key Stage 2. The curriculum follows a clear sequence of learning, often supported by a structured scheme of work such as Salut, which helps ensure progression in vocabulary, grammar and language skills. Lessons are organised into thematic units linked to real-life contexts, such as family, school life, food and hobbies, allowing pupils to see the relevance of language learning.

Teachers use a range of engaging teaching strategies to support language acquisition. Songs, games and storytelling are used to reinforce vocabulary and pronunciation, while role-play and speaking activities provide opportunities for pupils to practise communication in French. Teachers model accurate pronunciation and encourage repetition and rehearsal so that pupils can develop confidence in speaking. Visual resources, gestures and practical activities are frequently used to support understanding and help pupils remember new vocabulary.

Cross-curricular links may also be made with other subjects such as geography, art and music to enrich the language learning experience and deepen pupils' cultural understanding. Assessment is

used throughout lessons to monitor progress and inform teaching. Teachers use questioning, observation and short tasks to assess pupils' understanding and to identify misconceptions. In addition, short quizzes or end-of-unit assessments may be used to evaluate pupils' retention of vocabulary and their developing language skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Impact

The impact of the French curriculum is that pupils develop confidence and enthusiasm for language learning. Through regular practice and exposure to the language, pupils build a secure bank of vocabulary and develop the ability to understand and respond to spoken French in familiar contexts.

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils are able to participate in short spoken exchanges using simple phrases and sentences. They can read and understand familiar words and phrases and begin to write basic sentences using the vocabulary and structures they have learned. Pupils also develop an awareness of French culture and traditions, which helps them understand and appreciate different cultures.

Assessment information is used to evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum and to inform future teaching. Teachers analyse outcomes to identify strengths and gaps in pupils' knowledge and adapt teaching accordingly. Feedback helps pupils understand their progress and supports them in developing their language skills further.

The wider impact of the curriculum can also be seen in pupils' enthusiasm and engagement in language learning, as well as their participation in cultural activities and themed events related to French language and culture. Quality assurance processes such as lesson observations, work scrutiny, pupil voice and curriculum review ensure that the French curriculum remains effective, progressive and aligned with national expectations.