

Whitfield St James' CE (VC) Primary School

Languages Statement

Intent

At Whitfield St James' we intend to provide all of our children with a high-quality education in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) to develop their interest in learning about other languages and cultures. Our MFL curriculum has high expectations for all children, including children with a SEND and additional support is provided where necessary. We aim to enable children to express their ideas and thoughts in another language, both in speech and writing. We have chosen to study French and German to use the expertise of the staff in our school and links to what is taught at our feeder high schools. We alternate each year between French and German. Each child in KS2 will be taught 2 years the French language and 2 years the German language. All of KS2 are working on the same language in a year. We aim to provide an appropriate balance of spoken and written language teaching and learning opportunities, thus enabling children to have the opportunity to develop the necessary skills to access further foreign language teaching at Key Stage 3 and beyond. Through language learning, we hope that pupils will also develop their understanding of other cultures and literature, as well as communicating for practical purposes and understanding the importance of other languages in their future 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 writing in the language studied

Implementation

At Whitfield St James', our curriculum plan for the teaching of French and German, includes the language scheme from Early Start which is taught alongside aspects of continuous classroom provision and cultural understanding. In each topic, the children are taught to say and write new French or German vocabulary and aspects of grammar. Teaching and learning in French and German is often taught through conversational work, games, whiteboard activities, and singing. Children record some of their work in pictures, captions, and sentences, this builds through the key stage.

We use the topics in Early Start 1 in year 3/4 and in year 5/6 we refresh previous knowledge and work on the topics in Early Start 2.

Impact

Our balanced French and German curriculum gives children the opportunity to build on their previous learning and they can experience success and enjoyment in their language learning and in learning about another culture. Children are motivated to become confident at understanding and communicating in French and German, both spoken and written.

The impact of the MFL curriculum is monitored by the subject leader. Monitoring includes pupil interviews, books looks and other forms of evidence such as posters and other recorded work are also monitored by the subject leader. This happens termly to identify coverage and progress in all aspects of the French or German curriculum.

Each year, in addition to the lesson taught, we have a whole school project week which raises the profile of the subject and engages the whole school in projects linked to France or Germany.