

# Modern Languages Policy



**St Werburgh's C of E**  
**Primary School**

*Date June 2020*

Revised by Mrs. S. Dent

*To be revised: June 2022*

*Approved:* \_\_\_\_\_

## **1 Introduction**

**1.1** In our school we teach a foreign language (French) to all Key Stage 2 children as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons. Firstly, we believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. Secondly, we also believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life.

## **2 Aims and objectives**

**2.1** The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are:

- to foster an interest in learning other languages;
- to introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- to develop their speaking and listening skills;
- to lay the foundations for future study.

## **3 Organisation**

**3.1** We teach a foreign language to children in Key Stage 2 for approximately forty-five minutes a week. Currently in Year 3 and 4 each year group is split into two equal groups, and four members of staff (including a TA) teach the groups. This means that each class needs to do French simultaneously. In Year 5/6 the children are taught in class groups, giving more flexibility.

## **4 The curriculum**

**4.1** French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school.

**4.2** The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. We teach the children to know and understand how 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
- 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

## **5 Teaching and learning style**

**5.1** Since September we have based the teaching on the interactive online scheme of work called Language Angels, which has been received well. We adapt this to the context of our school and the abilities of our children, and supplement it with other activities such as making Mother's or Father's Day cards, and teaching songs.

**5.2** We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs). We emphasise listening and speaking skills over the reading and writing skills in Year 3 French. There is a greater focus on reading and writing skills from Year 4 and onwards. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, i.e. we try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

## **6 Intercultural understanding**

We also aim to provide activities that involve the whole school and which actively promote intercultural understanding; for example, in July 2018 we had a whole school French day which began with le petit déjeuner outside, and included age-appropriate activities for all the children, including FS2 and KS1. We aim to cover such areas as French geography, food, art and artists, customs and celebrations. In July 2019 our Sports Day had a French flavor with first, second and third stickers in French, and a French picnic for all the children .

## **7 Teaching a modern foreign language to children with special educational needs**

**7.1** At our school we teach a modern foreign language to all children, whatever their ability. A modern foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our modern foreign language teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. Teaching materials, teaching style and differentiation enable the child to learn more effectively. This ensures that our teaching is matched to the child's needs.

**7.2** We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning a modern foreign language. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, for example, a playground game in a modern foreign language, we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

## **8 Assessment**

We assess the children rigorously at the end of each teaching unit in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. We use the materials which are provided by Language Angels and which cover the four main areas:

- listening and responding
- speaking
- reading and responding
- writing

## **9 Monitoring and review**

We monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach in the school. The governors' curriculum committee has the responsibility of monitoring the success of the teaching in French.