



St James' First School

Modern Foreign Languages

Curriculum Overview

Intent

At St James', children are taught French as part of our Languages Curriculum. Children are introduced to the culture of our nearest neighbour in mainland Europe in a way that is meaningful and enables them to develop an appreciation of the differences and similarities between citizens in our interconnected, global world. We aspire to provide all children with the opportunity to begin the journey to gain the same cultural capital found through speaking and understanding second languages as their peers from a range of backgrounds.

Children are taught to understand and communicate in spoken and written French, with a developing command of a range of vocabulary and a sound understanding of the basic grammar that underpins the language. Our Modern Foreign Languages curriculum places high value on enjoyment and interest in engagement with a foreign language, as well as developing growth mindsets toward learning and using a wider range of languages in the future. We aspire to lay strong foundations for further learning of languages to be continued in the Upper Key Stage Two programme of study as the children progress to middle school.

Implementation

In our mixed Year 2/3 class and Year 3/4 class, French is explicitly taught as a discrete lesson. Alongside this, we further promote a structured, interleaved approach to the continual development of spoken language through promoting French vocabulary as part of general classroom practice. Teachers seek to provide opportunities for the children to immerse themselves in the language, for example, answering the register or recording the date in French.

At St James', our curriculum promotes the following strands:

- Curriculum strands:
- Speaking and Listening
- Vocabulary: conversational, functional and classroom
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammatical Understanding
- Cultural Understanding

We promote an interleaved approach to revision of vocabulary and grammar already taught, alongside acquisition of new content. At the end of a unit, teachers make meaningful use of assessment to identify and support next steps.

In the Early Years and Key Stage One, children are introduced to French through songs.

Impact

Through our engaging Modern Foreign Languages curriculum, all children will make progress by developing their knowledge and skills. In order to evaluate knowledge, skills and understanding, on-going teacher assessment is conducted based on verbal interactions. The progressive acquisition of skills in reading, writing and grammatical understanding over time will be evidenced in French Books that move with each pupil through their journey in Key Stage Two.