

LEYS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (FRENCH) POLICY 2021

Introduction

Learning a foreign language is part of the primary National Curriculum and is a requirement for all children within key stage 2 (KS2). Leys Farm Junior School (LFJS) has adopted a whole school approach to the teaching of French to all KS2 pupils using an online programme called Language Angels.

Aims and Objectives of French at LFJS

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 as they progress through school.

Throughout their French learning, children will develop the five key language skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar. As they move forward through the school, children will continue to make progress in each of these fields. It is important that children develop solid foundations in each of these key language learning skills in order to properly prepare them for the next stage of their language learning journey - whether that be the next year group, or for the Year 6 children, preparing them for secondary school.

Intent of the LFJS French Curriculum

Our whole school approach to language teaching and learning is in line with the recommendations of the National Curriculum and the requirements outlined in the Department for Education Languages Programme of Study for Key Stage 2.

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:

- 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.

Implementation of the LFJS French Curriculum

French is taught in a whole-class setting by one of our Learning Supervisors who is a fluent French speaker and spent some time living in France also. Children are taught French once a week for 45 minutes per session. Lessons are planned using the National Curriculum and Language Angels scheme of work which comprise of lesson presentations and accompanying songs. The pronunciation is included in the presentations too so children are having pronunciation modelled to them as accurately as possible.

The lesson 'units' are selected in a way that allows the children to continue to build upon their learning with each subsequent unit. This allows some flexibility in the sequence of teaching and allowing children to be fully secure in one unit before moving on. For example, autumn term begins with children learning greetings as this is a solid foundation to then build upon as if they were engaging in conversation in French.

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-D children have access to the curriculum through variation of task, grouping or support from an adult.

Impact of the LFJS French Curriculum

Following the National Curriculum and using the Language Angels scheme allows the teaching of French to be varied, engaging and interesting for the children. It is full of content and opportunities for knowledge to be further developed as children move throughout school, and more importantly as they prepare for secondary school. Each week, children are consistently receiving a French session that lasts 45-50 minutes which allowed for revision of previously taught content, new content to be introduced and rehearsal of oral phrases.

Through the teaching of French, children are encouraged to make comparisons and links between English as a language, and French as a language. This allows children to reflect on their learning of English and notice any similarities, differences and contrasts between the primary language of most of our children, and the additional language of French. They begin to develop and understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life including foods, festivals, celebrations, clothing etc.

This understanding of the French culture as well as the language, is encouraged all throughout school which helps to give our pupils a broad and balanced view of the world in which they live. We encourage our children to be curious individuals as well as respectful and tolerant of others. The teaching of French helps us to achieve this goal. We currently have several children identified as English as an additional language (EAL), and the whole class teaching of an additional language allows inclusivity and also sparks discussion between children who are multi-lingual.

Monitoring and Reviewing

The Subject Leader monitors the effectiveness of the language teaching provided throughout the school. The Subject Leader and member of staff delivering the French teaching, meet regularly to discuss future coverage as well as evaluating current learning. Children also have French books in which all their French learning is kept. Class teachers have these books in their classrooms so they can monitor and are aware of what is being taught in French too.

We have only this year, invested in the Language Angel scheme of learning and assessment tools. The hope is, going forward, that we utilise Language Angels as much as we can, which will include using the assessment tool, which will store all of the data in a secure and password protected area online.

Children also have access to Language Angels at home, with each class having their own separate login so children can access French learning remotely, this includes games based on the content they have covered in school.

French Curriculum Planning

French lessons include:

- PowerPoints and interactive whiteboard materials;
- interactive games (which pupils can access from home to consolidate their learning);
- songs and raps;
- differentiated desk-based consolidation activities;
- worksheets (at three different levels of challenge) are provided throughout each teaching unit and can be used in class or can be sent home to be completed as a homework exercise.

Each lesson will focus on a combination of the 5 key language learning skills (speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar).

Currently, units are selected at the discretion of the Learning Supervisor delivering the learning which is then shared with the Subject Leader before each unit begins.

Assessment

Language Angels offer two forms of assessment at the end of every unit. Peer and self-assessment I can do grids and more detailed skills-based assessment, which are often assessment worksheets.

The I can do grids are used by our pupils at the moment. This allows pupils in the class to see whether they have achieved the goal for each lesson and also to see the progress that they are making. Differentiated worksheets are another way the children are assessed in French. The worksheets completed by the children are marked and then kept in their books which will be passed onto subsequent teachers as children move through school. These books then become a portfolio of their French learning journey.

Language Angels also offer a Tracking & Progression Tool online as well as an individual Learning & Progression Timeline and skills progress report feature. Due to us only just investing in Language Angels Autumn Term 2020, we are yet to utilise these features. However, in 2021 we will develop and make use of all of these features which will allow the progress reports to be forwarded to the children's secondary school at the time of their transition.

British Values

The teaching of French at LFJS supports the teaching of British Values. All teachers are passionate in ensuring children are taught to be tolerant and respectful to all. In French in particular, this comes through knowledge rich teaching and learning from our designated Learning Supervisor. Through teaching children, a foreign language, we expose children to French culture and have discussions about life in France, as well as teaching them key language

skills. This helps children to eradicate any prejudice or misconceptions they may have of other cultures. Children approach all French lessons with curiosity and intrigue, ready to learn more about another country including their language and their culture. Children are respectful of this and also show respect to those in the class who may already be multilingual.

Cultural Capital

At LFJS, we ensure that the teaching and learning of French is well planned, well-resourced and well delivered. This is important as we want to ensure our learners are getting the highest quality teaching we can provide to them. Using Language Angels supports us in doing this as we are confident pronunciation is accurate and that the five key learning aspects (speaking, listening, writing, reading, grammar) are being taught correctly. High quality French teaching and learning is also important to LFJS as it means children are introduced to foreign culture and language in a safe environment allowing them to understand others around the world. This is something children may not otherwise be exposed to when it comes to the teaching of a modern foreign language. Having audio clips for children to listen to and having correct pronunciation modelled to them accurately is also something we are proud of and take very seriously as this will raise children's attainment and understanding of the language they are learning. Language Angels provide high quality support materials but also our children are taught by a member of our staff who is a fluent French speaker and is confident in her delivery and ability to answer the children's questions as well as supporting them as they begin their language journey. At LFJS, we are proud to be able to offer these resources to our children, and feel privileged to be in a position to do so.

Resources

The Language Angels scheme is a fully online resource enabling all teachers in all classes to have instant and continuous access to all the resources they need to teach whichever lesson they choose.

Reviewed: March 2021