MFL- French Curriculum Intent and Implementation



Our School Vision:

Recognising the unique light that shines in every individual, we strive to 'encourage one another and build each other up' (1 Thessalonians 5:11) to ensure that all can thrive. Through our core Christian values of Love, Hope and Justice, we inspire learning for life, empowering everyone to flourish and make a positive difference in the world.

Curriculum Intent:

- To develop articulate, resilient and empowered citizens who make a difference to others
- To provide a coherent and ambitious curriculum that leads to a greater depth of understanding for all
- To inspire pupils with purposeful and interconnected learning experiences

Intent

At Preston Candover Primary School, French is the principal language taught. We believe that learning a language broadens pupils' horizons, develops their understanding of the world and provides an important opportunity to appreciate cultures and perspectives beyond their own. Through learning French, pupils develop an understanding that language is structured and that languages can share similarities and differences. They are encouraged to notice patterns, make connections with English and become increasingly confident in manipulating language for themselves.

We want pupils to develop:

- curiosity and enjoyment in learning another language;
- confidence and resilience when communicating in French;
- a growing body of secure and retrievable vocabulary;
- an understanding of key grammatical structures and how language works;
- an understanding of French sound-spelling correspondences to support pronunciation, listening and reading;
- the ability to listen, speak, read and write with increasing independence;
- an appreciation of the diversity of French-speaking communities and cultures;
- an understanding of similarities and differences between French-speaking cultures and their own experiences;
- the foundations for successful future language learning.

Implementation

Although languages are not statutory until Key Stage 2, we introduce French from Reception to develop pupils' curiosity about languages and establish positive early foundations. Through songs, rhymes, greetings, classroom language and simple vocabulary, pupils begin to notice and reproduce some of the characteristic sounds and patterns of French. Our Key Stage 2 French curriculum is language-led and is structured around the interconnected development of three important areas of linguistic knowledge:

- phonics;
- vocabulary;
- grammar.

These provide the foundations pupils need to develop increasingly confident listening, speaking, reading and writing. As pupils progress into Key Stage 2, teaching becomes increasingly systematic. New learning builds on what pupils already know, with regular opportunities to revisit, retrieve and apply previously taught knowledge.
Pupils develop their knowledge of French sound-spelling correspondences so that they can pronounce familiar and unfamiliar words with increasing accuracy and use this knowledge to support listening, speaking, reading and writing. Pupils are taught to listen attentively and respond to spoken language, participate in conversations, ask and answer questions, express ideas and opinions, and develop their pronunciation. They read and understand familiar and increasingly unfamiliar language and write phrases and sentences using their growing knowledge of phonics, vocabulary and grammatical structures.

Grammar is taught explicitly and revisited regularly so that pupils understand how language is constructed and can increasingly manipulate and generate language for themselves rather than simply reproduce memorised phrases. Stories, songs and other authentic or age-appropriate cultural resources are carefully selected and used where they strengthen language learning and provide meaningful contexts for pupils to encounter and apply French.

Cultural Understanding
Cultural understanding is an important component of our French curriculum. Pupils learn about France and the wider Francophone world, including different countries, communities, traditions, landmarks and aspects of everyday life. Pupils are encouraged to recognise diversity within the Francophone world and to make thoughtful comparisons with their own lives and experiences. Cultural learning is integrated with language learning wherever possible, enabling pupils to use French for a meaningful purpose while developing their understanding of the wider world.

French for Every Child
We are ambitious for every pupil. All pupils have access to the same rich curriculum and high expectations, with appropriate support and adaptations made where necessary. We recognise that pupils may have different starting points and different levels of prior exposure to languages. Our curriculum therefore focuses on securing the essential phonics, vocabulary and grammatical knowledge pupils need and enabling them to make meaningful progress from their starting points.

Assessment
Assessment is closely aligned with the taught curriculum and focuses on what pupils know, remember and can increasingly apply independently, including their developing knowledge of phonics, vocabulary and grammar. Retrieval activities, questioning, observation of spoken language and review of pupils' reading and writing help teachers identify what pupils have remembered, as well as any gaps and misconceptions.
Entry and end-of-unit quizzes are used to support teachers in identifying what pupils have remembered and what requires further teaching, retrieval or practice. Assessment is used to inform subsequent teaching and ensure that important knowledge is secure before pupils build upon it.

What makes a Preston Candover Linguist?

End of KS2: A Preston Candover Linguist is able to listen and respond in French, ask and answer questions, read and write short sentences, use accurate pronunciation, and explore French culture with respect and interest