

Appendix 7: Curriculum Statement for Languages

From Year 3, all pupils are taught French, although throughout the school children are made aware of different languages in an informal way.

In Years 3 and 4 the main focus is on listening and speaking French; in Years 5 and 6 the emphasis gradually shifts towards reading and writing, using the same vocabulary and sentence structures. Children in mixed age classes are taught French with their own year group.

The Baldock network of schools work together to ensure that children are well prepared for starting secondary school French lessons, for example by using the same French textbook for Year 6.

France is studied in detail as a theme by Key Stage 2 children as part of the four-year rolling programme and this provides a wealth of opportunities for them to deepen their understanding of French language, culture and geography.

Organisation of the curriculum

French usually has a timetabled slot each week of approximately 30-45 minutes, as well as being taught in short bursts daily in conversation in the classroom, to recap the current objective and as part of general classroom management (for example to deliver the register, celebrate birthdays or during 'counting down' times).

It is important, wherever possible, that the French language is modelled throughout teaching times by the teacher to the children to greet them and give simple classroom instructions as well as to cover the main learning objective of the lesson.

Schemes of work and progression

The Early Start Languages scheme is used by Year 3-5. In Year 6 children follow a similar programme to other Baldock schools, to prepare for the transition to secondary school.

Early Start Languages scheme is designed for beginners in KS2 and uses a combination of video resources, games and activities to provide high-quality experiences of listening to French, knowledge and awareness of the French culture, with plenty of opportunities to speak the language before progressing towards reading and writing. Linguistic progression is built into the scheme.

Teachers supplement the scheme using multimedia resources available online (e.g. *Languagenut*) and French literature and songs. Children are encouraged to develop conversational skills through the use of drama and role play activities and circle rounds, as well as in response to questions posed by the teacher.

The Year 6 programme recaps topics previously covered in spoken language with more opportunities to read and write in French. We are currently using the *Accès Studio* textbook.

| Year group | Main topics covered (each year also includes a considerable amount of revision of previous learning) |
|------------|--|
| 3 | Greetings; saying goodbye; asking people how they are, and answering; asking people their name and answering; learning the French pronunciation of the alphabet; colours; numbers 1 to 12; asking people's age and answering; the months of the year'; numbers 13 to 31; asking about birthdays and answering; |
| 4 | Days of the week; dates; pets; brothers and sisters; classroom language; asking where people live and answering; places in town; directions; rooms and objects in school; |
| 5 | Telling the time; weather; numbers 40 to 200; shopping; food; leisure activities; lessons; clothes; more classroom language |
| 6 | Reading and writing French, focusing on written language for meeting & greeting; numbers and ages; days/months/birthdays; school life; likes and dislikes; hobbies; colours; animals; families; where people live; food; nationalities and countries; weather. Grammar taught includes plurals, articles, adjectives, pronouns and verbs. Spelling and the use of French/English dictionaries are also taught. |

Planning documents used

An outline of French teaching for each year group is included in the Curriculum Overview and it appears in thematic planning where appropriate. There is no compulsory medium-term or weekly planning pro-forma for French, although template planning for Foundation subjects is available if desired. Teachers use the order outlined in the scheme or textbook and the activities suggested as a basis to plan their lessons. There is room to spend 1-2 lessons on each topic depending on the progress the children make. At the end of each year, teachers indicate where they have reached so that the next teacher can continue from the appropriate point.

Resources

French resources and games are stored centrally in the new building in a blue, white and red block of trays. There are further resources arranged to match the units of the Early Start scheme which are stored in the Year 6 classroom cupboard.

Displays

Temporary and permanent display to build French vocabulary and classroom language, develop cultural awareness and celebrate children's written French are used successfully throughout the school to further promote learning, including in the outdoor areas. Some display materials are available in the resources areas.

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