

French Curriculum Intent

Summary Statement

At Beechwood, the French curriculum is rooted in the school's underlying aims, ethos and values. Through the nurturing of a growth mindset, Beechwood pupils discover that language learning is interesting and fun. The curriculum is carefully designed to equip our pupils with the knowledge, skills and vocabulary they need to understand a foreign language.

The Beechwood curriculum for French aims to:

- develop children's language learning skills and create an awareness that all language has a structure and that this structure differs for different languages.
- develop pupils' ability to communicate in French at a basic, practical level using short, simple phrases and language structures.
- stimulate a continuous awareness of French through displays in the school environment and an integration of French expressions within the classrooms.
- foster pupils' curiosity and a positive attitude to learning another language.
- Introduce pupils to the culture of French-speaking countries and communities
- lay the foundations for further language learning at Key Stage 3 and equip pupils to study and work in other countries.

Key Concepts and Ideas:

The curriculum is progressive in terms of knowledge, skill and vocabulary and designed so children both acquire new knowledge but also revisit this at intervals to ensure they build a schema to master what they have learnt. In addition, the curriculum provides children with a working knowledge of the linguistic structure: feminine, masculine forms and the conjugation of high frequency verbs; key features and patterns of language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are like their Mother Tongue. Children should be encouraged to take risks when studying a new language and be able to identify social conventions at home and in other cultures.

French body of knowledge – a rationale

The curriculum is based on a highly structured scheme in line with the National Programme of Study for Languages: Language Angels. The flexible, interactive plans of the scheme ensure the teaching and learning is tailor made so mastery can be achieved and there is a breadth of resources available for each topic; additionally, the curriculum ensures new grammatical or phonological concepts are constantly revisited so prior learning is embedded and meaningful Opportunities for pupils to engage in real life situations are paramount and the curriculum ensures that the language learning is relevant, motivating and interesting.

By the end of Year 3 pupils should:

Speaking Skills

- Speak with others using simple words, phrases and short sentences (e.g. greetings and basic information about myself).
- Speak aloud familiar words or short phrases in chorus.
- Use correct pronunciation when speaking and start to see links between pronunciation and spelling.

Listening Skills

- Listen and respond to familiar spoken words, phrases and sentences (e.g. simple instructions, rhymes, songs).
- Develop understanding of the sounds of individual letters and groups of letters (phonics).

Reading Skills

- Recognise and understand familiar written words and short phrases (e.g.
- basic nouns and first person "I" form of simple verbs) in written text.
- Read aloud familiar words or short phrases in chorus.

Writing Skills

- Write some familiar simple words from memory or using supported written materials (e.g. familiar nouns).

Grammar Skills

- Start to understand the concept of gender (masculine, feminine, neuter (if applicable) and how this is shown in the language being studied.

- Understand numbers 1-10 and be able to say, read and write them.
- Be familiar with the days of the week and be able to say them and recognise them in written form.
- Use simple greetings (e.g. saying hello and goodbye, saying how they are).
- Ask and answer simple questions about name and age.
- Understand and communicate familiar nouns (e.g. animals, musical instruments) including the correct article (dependent on gender).
- Use simple adjectives (e.g. colours).
- Use some simple verbs in the first person "I" form (e.g. I am and I play).
- Understand the sounds of individual letters and groups of letters and speak them aloud individually and in chorus.

By the end of Year 4 pupils should:

Speaking Skills

- Communicate by asking and answering
- a wider range of questions, using longer phrases and sentences.
- Present short pieces of information to another person.
- Apply phonic knowledge to support speaking (also reading and writing).

Listening Skills

- Listen for and identify specific words and phrases in instructions, stories and songs.
- Follow a text accurately whilst listening to it being read.

Reading Skills

- Accurately read and understand familiar written words, phrases and short sentences (e.g. in fairy tales or character/place descriptions).
- Accurately read a wider range of familiar written words, phrases and short sentences aloud to another person.

Writing Skills

- Write some familiar words, phrases and simple sentences from memory or using supported written materials (e.g. using a word bank).

Grammar Skills

- Understand the concept of gender (masculine, feminine, neuter (if applicable) and which article (definite or indefinite) to use correctly with different nouns.
- Introduce and use the negative form.
- Begin to look at what a fully conjugated verb looks like.

- Understand numbers 1-100 (in multiples of 10) and be able to say, read and write them (e.g. in dates and other numeracy activities).
- Use a wider range of vocabulary to ask and understand questions in the classroom (e.g. asking for help, asking the time, simple classroom commands etc.)
- Understand and communicate using a wider range of familiar nouns (including the correct article) (e.g. classroom items, animals, musical instruments, food and drink).
- Understand and use adjectives to describe people, places, things and themselves (e.g. characters in a story or their family members, their age, nationality, where they live).
- Understand and use verbs in the first person "I" form (perhaps also have a look at a fully conjugated regular verb and show where the first person "I" form is).
- Write slightly longer phrases and basic sentences using a verb in the first person "I" form and a noun including the correct article. (NB: Be careful if introducing adjectives at this early stage as in most languages these will have to agree with the gender of the noun. Adjectival agreement should be covered in year 5 and in more detail again in year 6 as it requires a certain amount of linguistic maturity from the pupils).

By the end of Year 5 pupils should:

Speaking Skills

- Take part in short conversations using sentences and familiar vocabulary.
- Present to another person or group of people using sentences and authentic pronunciation, gesture and intonation to convey accurate meaning.
- Understand and express simple opinions using familiar topics and vocabulary.

Listening Skills

- Listen attentively and understand more complex phrases and sentences in longer passages of the foreign language (e.g. instructions given, stories, fairy tales, songs and extended listening exercises).
- Undertake longer listening exercises and be able to identify key words or phrases so as to answer questions.

Reading Skills

- Read a variety of simple texts in different but authentic formats (e.g. stories, song lyrics (covering familiar topics), reading exercises with set questions, emails or letters from a partner school).

Writing Skills

- Write simple sentences and short paragraphs from memory or using supported written materials (e.g. using a word bank).
- Use verbs in the correct form (e.g. first person "I" or third person "he", "she", "you" in their writing to express what they and other people do, like etc.)
- Check spellings with a dictionary.

Grammar Skills

- Understand the concept of gender (masculine & feminine) and which article (definite or indefinite) to use correctly with different nouns.
 - Use the negative form, possessives and connectives.
 - Understand what the different parts of a fully conjugated verb look like and what each of the personal pronouns are.
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- Understand and use the alphabet to assist in correct spelling and pronunciation.
 - Follow and give simple instructions and descriptions (e.g. the date, the weather, what they are wearing).
 - Be able to say, read and write the date including the day, number and month of the year. All numbers from 1-100 in multiples of 10 as well as all numbers from 1-31 should be familiar.
 - Take part in conversations and be able to make simple statements and present information (e.g. weather, playing an instrument, the date, what they wear at different times of the year or on different occasions).
 - Understand and communicate simple descriptions orally and in writing (e.g. of a scene, a person, a place, the weather).
 - Be able to read longer passages of text and answer questions (orally or in writing about the passage they have read (e.g. reading a short and simple story or completing a reading exercise about what different people are wearing on different days of the week for different occasions).
 - Be able to listen to longer passages of text and answer questions (orally or in writing) about the passage they have heard (e.g. about what the weather is like on different days or in different areas of a country).
 - Understand what a fully conjugated verb looks like and start to examine and understand what each of the personal pronouns are so they can use them in speaking, listening, reading and writing activities (e.g. the first person form "I" but also third person forms "he", "she", "you" and plural forms "we" and "they". This can be done using familiar verbs such as "to wear" regarding clothes and they can then build sentences about what they and their friends are wearing).

By the end of year 6, pupils should:

Speaking Skills

- Use spoken language to initiate and sustain simple conversations on familiar topics or to tell stories from their own experience.
- Present to an audience about familiar topics (e.g. role-play, presentation or read / repeat from a text or passage).
- Use connectives to link together what they say so as to add fluency.

Reading Skills

- Read aloud with expression and accurate pronunciation.
- Read and understand the main points and more specific details from a variety of simple texts in different but authentic formats (e.g. stories, reading exercises with set questions, emails, letters from a partner school or internet sites in the target language (supervision required)).

Grammar Skills

- Understand the concept of gender (masculine, feminine, neuter (if applicable) and which article (definite or indefinite) to use correctly with different nouns.
- Understand what the different parts of a conjugated verb look like, know what each of the personal pronouns are, understand a verb stem and the different endings (where appropriate) for the main types of verbs.
- Be able to identify and correctly use adjectives (e.g. colours or size) and connectives and understand the concept of adjectival agreement (where relevant).

Listening Skills

- Understand the main points in passages of language spoken with authentic pronunciation and at authentic speed.
- Understand and identify longer and more complex phrases and sentences (e.g. descriptions, information, instructions) in listening exercises and be able to answer questions based on what they hear.

Writing Skills

- Write longer sentences and short paragraphs from memory or using supported materials (e.g. a word bank).
- Use verbs in the correct form (e.g. first person "I" or third person "he", "she", "you" and plurals "we" and "they" to express what they and other people do, like etc.)
- Identify and correctly use adjectives (e.g. colours or size) and connectives placing them correctly in a sentence and understand the concept of adjectival agreement (where relevant)

- Understand numbers 1-100 and be able to use them in context (e.g. the date, age, prices).
- Be able to identify and tell the time (in speaking, listening, reading and writing exercises). This includes all full hour times plus quarter past the hour, half past the hour, quarter to the hour.
- Understand, express and be able to justify opinions orally and in writing (e.g. school subjects they like and don't like, leisure activities they like, foods they don't like etc.)
- Be able to express a statement in the positive (e.g. I like cheese) and the negative (I do not like cheese).
- Understand and use transactional language (e.g. in a café role play "I would like", "how much" etc.)
- Use adjectives (e.g. colour or size etc.) to make their sentences more descriptive. They must make sure the adjectives agree (where relevant) with the noun they are describing. Where agreement is necessary gender and plurality of the noun will determine the correct use, spelling and pronunciation of the adjective.
- Use connectives to make sentences more descriptive and fluent (e.g. "after", "also", "and", "later on", "finally" etc.)
- Be able to read or listen to longer passages of text and answer more detailed questions (orally or in writing) about the passage they have read (e.g. a reading exercise about what people eat to stay healthy, or a listening exercise about planets in the solar system stating what colour they are and how big or small they are).
- Study cross-curricular topics (e.g. habitats, planets or Romans) and use their subject knowledge to allow themselves to be challenged by longer passages of unknown text or language in the foreign language. They should now be able to use the language learning skills they have developed to help them decode meaning and gist from more complex passages.
- Understand what a fully conjugated verb looks like and understand what each of the personal pronouns are so they can use them in speaking, listening, reading and writing activities (e.g. the first person form "I" but also third person forms "he", "she", "you" and plural forms "we" and "they"). They should also be able to identify what is the stem of a verb, the ending of the verb in its infinitive form and how this enables the verb to be categorised and the impact this will have on the pattern of changes to the endings of the verb for each personal pronoun.

Relevance to School Curriculum Aims

Learning is meaningful, relevant and enjoyable

The curriculum affords opportunities for the children to learn French in a meaningful, authentic, practical and enjoyable way. An emphasis is placed on language learning through sharing rhymes, songs, stories and using role-play which helps to motivate and develop their enthusiasm for learning French. Pupils and teachers are encouraged to use year group-specific French phrases in their classroom on a daily basis; thus, enabling pupils to see that learning continues outside of French lessons. Interactive displays in the corridor and KS2 French assemblies, for example, increase the profile of the language across the school and encourage pupils to participate in enjoyable challenges that consolidate their learning.

An extended concept of curriculum provision

“Wow Experiences” are planned during the year, across the school to provide an extended concept of the learning that transcends the boundaries of the classroom and school. The involvement of native language teachers in these drop-down sessions/days ensure children are further immersed in learning about French culture and language. This provision has been offered to EYFS and KS1 as a way of introducing foreign language learning in younger children.