French Curriculum Intent 2026-2027

Summary Statement

At Beechwood, all pupils in Key Stage 2 learn French as part of a broad and balanced curriculum. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to experience successful language learning and to develop curiosity about languages, cultures and the wider world.

Our MFL curriculum is designed to be engaging, ambitious and accessible to all pupils. Through a carefully sequenced programme of study, children progressively develop their knowledge and skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing. They build an increasingly secure bank of vocabulary, develop awareness of pronunciation and grammar, and learn to recognise patterns and structures within language.

We want children to become confident and enthusiastic language learners who are willing to take risks, make mistakes and "have a go". Through regular opportunities to hear, speak, read and write French, pupils develop resilience, independence and effective strategies for learning and remembering new language.

Learning French also supports pupils' wider communication and literacy skills. By comparing French with English and with other languages known by pupils, children develop a greater understanding of how languages work and a new perspective on their own language.

Alongside linguistic knowledge, our curriculum aims to broaden pupils' cultural understanding. Children learn about aspects of life and culture in France and the wider French-speaking world, helping them to recognise and appreciate both similarities and differences between cultures. In doing so, we aim to foster curiosity, openness and respect for different languages, cultures and ways of life.

Our intention is that, by the end of Key Stage 2, pupils have developed a secure foundation in French, positive attitudes towards language learning and the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to make a successful transition to language learning at Key Stage 3 and beyond.

Our Aims

At Beechwood, we aim to:

- provide all Key Stage 2 pupils with a secure and progressively developing foundation in French;
- deliver engaging, interactive and accessible lessons that enable all pupils to experience success in language learning;
- develop pupils' confidence and willingness to communicate in another language;
- build resilience, perseverance and independence through a positive "have-a-go" approach;
- progressively develop pupils' skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing;
- build pupils' knowledge of vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar and language structures;
- enable pupils to understand and respond to increasingly familiar spoken and written French;
- develop pupils' ability to communicate ideas, information and opinions through speech and writing with increasing accuracy and confidence;
- help pupils recognise patterns and connections between French, English and other languages;
- develop pupils' understanding of French and Francophone cultures and encourage respect for cultural diversity;
- equip pupils with transferable language-learning strategies that can support the learning of other languages;
- ensure pupils are well prepared for the expectations of language learning at Key Stage 3.

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.

Please refer to the document from the Language Angels scheme – skills development and classroom realities - for details of the foreign language learning targets for each year of key stage 2, broken down in to the speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar skills, which pupils should have developed by the end of the year. This document also provides a list of specific classroom topics which have deliverable classroom realities to ensure all of the required skills are being developed to the right level and at the right pace

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. This provision has been offered to EYFS and KS1 as a way of introducing foreign language learning to our younger pupils.

Excitingly, we also work in partnership with our local high school, Bishop Young Academy, to offer our Year 6 pupils a Spanish workshop led by their Modern Foreign Languages Lead and Year 10 students. This provides pupils with a creative and engaging introduction to Spanish, allowing them to apply their existing language-learning skills in a new context. It also supports transition to secondary school by giving children a valuable taste of what Modern Foreign Language learning will be like in Year 7.