



Fiddlers Lane

Community Primary School

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy

1 Introduction

At Fiddlers Lane we teach French to KS2 children as part of the curriculum. We do this for several reasons. Firstly, we believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. Secondly, we also believe that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school, as they tend to be less self-conscious about speaking aloud at this stage of their development. It is widely believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life.

2. Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are:

- to foster an interest in learning other languages;
- to introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- to develop their speaking and listening skills;
- to lay the foundations for future study.

3 Organisation

KS 2 children are taught by the class teacher for approximately 30 minutes each week. This is then reinforced during the week, up to 1 hour.

KS 1 children have the opportunity to join a French after-school club which runs for a half-term and which is run by the MFL co-ordinator.

Opportunities for including MFL in other classes arise during the year through Topic lessons, Arts Week and Languages Day every September.

4 The curriculum

French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school.

The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. The Catherine Cheater scheme is used throughout Y3-Y6. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ask and answer questions;
- read and write some basic words;
- use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- memorise words;
- interpret meaning;
- understand basic grammar;
- use dictionaries;
- work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other language;
- learn about life in another culture including festivals and celebrations.

The new KS2 curriculum ensures that children:

- Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
- Engage in conversations, ask and answer questions, express opinions and respond to those of others, and seek clarification and help
- Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
- 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, expressing their ideas clearly
- Describe people, places, things and actions in speech and in writing

5 Teaching and learning style

We base the teaching on the guidance material in the Catherine Cheater scheme of work for modern foreign languages. We have adapted this to the context of our school and the abilities of our children.

We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs. We often use puppets and soft toys to demonstrate the foreign language. We emphasise the listening and speaking skills over the reading and writing skills. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, i.e. we try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the foreign language, however tentative.

The co-ordinator also liaises with the local secondary school so they are aware of the M.F.L. experience of our children when it comes to the next phase of their education and where possible, staff from ICC visit Fiddlers Lane to teach in one class at some point in the year.

6 Assessment

We assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. This is done informally during the lessons in order to evaluate what the children have learned.

Assessment is in three key areas:

- listening and responding:
- speaking:
- reading and responding

7 Monitoring and reviewing

We monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach in the school. The headteacher also reports to the governing body on the delivery of French to the children in the same way as in any other subject. The policy will be reviewed every 3 years, unless there is a change in the statutory guidance.

Date:

Signed:

Review: