



BUTTSBURY
JUNIOR SCHOOL

AN ACADEMY SCHOOL

Foreign Languages Policy

Maximum Effort for Maximum Achievement

Introduction

At Buttsbury Junior School, we teach a foreign language to our children as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons.

- We believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language.
- We also believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired.
- It is also important for children to gain a cultural understanding of other countries and lifestyle.

Aims of Foreign Languages

Buttsbury Junior School offers a relevant, broad, vibrant and ambitious foreign languages curriculum that will inspire and excite our pupils using a wide range of topics and themes. All pupils will be expected to achieve their full potential by encouraging high expectations and excellent standards in their foreign language learning. We intend for the children's cultural awareness to be developed through the teaching of a foreign language and for them to understand their place in the wider world.

Curriculum Intent

At Buttsbury Junior School the intent of our French curriculum is to equip children with the knowledge and skills to use the French language in real life situations and hold conversations with their peers. Also, it allows children to appreciate another culture and develop their wider transferable skills, increasing their understanding and curiosity of diversity and love of language and word origin.

Curriculum Implementation

Units of learning are blocked, well sequenced and build on previous learning. Lessons ensure that progress is achieved through small steps, allowing children to develop their subject knowledge, consolidate skills and apply their learning. Strands in French include: Listening and understanding, translating, speaking, writing and learning how to apply key vocabulary to a basic conversation, to acknowledge the gender of words and how to use the negative form.

At Buttsbury Junior School, French lessons may include:

- Listening to and translating French spoken words and sentences
- Reading and writing French words and sentences
- Holding and practising conversations with peers
- Learning core vocabulary e.g colours, days of the week, rooms of the house, numbers
- Learning core phrases e.g. j'ai, j'aime, je suis etc.
- Learning songs and rhymes to help remember vocabulary
- Translating text from French to English and vice versa
- Modifying words into their negative form
- Building on vocabulary previously learnt and development of transferable skills to be able to use French in real life situations

Curriculum Impact

Our curriculum allows a broad and fun opening into the French language, which provides a strong baseline to build upon in their future education. Children will be able to greet others in French, as well as respond to basic commands and questions. As a result of our curriculum, children have a basic grounding in the fundamentals of French grammar such as gender, word class and word order. They are able to compare and contrast English and French

grammar and apply the rules within their work. As a result of our French curriculum, children are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills for the next stage of their education at secondary school.

Organisation

All children receive 45 minutes of French teaching per week. The teaching of the National Curriculum content is supported by the use of Language Angels scheme of work and resources. Children should also receive a 15 minute top up of French in a range of ways, for example answering the register, greeting in French, use of key words in PE, use of games.

The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum, with the focus of language learning being on practical communication. This aims to ensure that all pupils:

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity
- communicate what they want to say through discussion and asking questions
- continually improve the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- can write at varying length for different purposes and audiences
- use a variety of grammatical structures
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the target language

Teaching a foreign language to children with Special Educational Needs

At Buttsbury Junior School, we teach a foreign language to every child. A foreign language forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our foreign language teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs.

Intervention through Additional Support and Record of Concern will lead to the creation of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for children with special educational needs. The IEP may include, as appropriate, specific targets relating to the foreign language.

We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning a foreign language. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, for example, a playground game in a foreign language, we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils. Advice on adapting and scaffolding the learning, including for higher attaining language students, is available from the subject leader.

Assessment

We use the National Curriculum statements and our own Skills Progression Document to make a judgement based on evidence of the four skills seen in lessons. We may feedback any relevant comments at parents meetings. We report on Foreign Language progress in the annual report to parents.

Scheme of Work

The Language Angels scheme of work will be used throughout KS2, along with the supporting resources. This will fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum. Topics or cross-curricular links should be taught where appropriate. Additionally, activities in the target language should be considered for special events in the school year, for example Christmas.

Mastery in Foreign Languages

Effective mastery in Foreign Languages leads to an understanding of another language and culture. Texts and resources in the target language (French) are provided to encourage and stimulate interest in language learning for all children. Regardless of their ability, all pupils are challenged through the opportunity to study texts in French and songs.

Pupils demonstrate accurate reading and listening skills. Furthermore, they compare and contrast the vocabulary and grammar rules of English with those of French; they identify similarities and differences in order to apply these rules accurately and demonstrate a deeper understanding of the grammar in both their own and the target language.

Vocabulary and sentence structures are provided to the pupils throughout the teaching sequence. They are then able to independently apply their knowledge to both structure their own sentences and to talk about other topics and therefore demonstrate mastery. Children are able to reuse, apply and adapt the vocabulary and sentence structures as they progress through KS2.

Real life scenarios are included throughout the teaching sequences to allow children to apply their language knowledge, for example greetings in Year 3 and French café vocabulary in Year 4. Children also have the opportunity to study topics linked to other Foundation areas such as Habitats in Year 4 and Vikings in Year 6.

As a result of this, children develop a deeper understanding of language learning and an understanding of another culture and language.

Monitoring and review

Policy Date: Spring 2023

Review Date: Spring 2026