

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Modern Foreign Language Policy

Agreed by Governors: February 2025

To be reviewed: February 2026

Mission Statement

*As one family working together
to be the best that we can be,
we live, love and learn with Jesus.*

At St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, we believe that the learning of a foreign language provides a valuable educational, social and cultural experience for the pupils. Pupils develop communication and literacy skills that lay the foundation for future language learning. They develop linguistic competence, extend their knowledge of how language works and explore differences and similarities between the foreign language and English. Learning another language raises awareness of the multi-lingual and multi-cultural world and introduces an international dimension to pupils' learning, giving them an insight into their own culture and those of others. The learning of a foreign language provides a medium for cross-curricular links and for reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other subjects.

The National Curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages aims to ensure that all children:

- understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
- are able to speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions, and that they are continually improving the accuracy of their pronunciation and intonation
- can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learnt
- discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

At St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, we teach French, based on community experience plus staff knowledge and availability of quality resources. Our main objectives in the teaching of French are to promote the development of linguistic competence and confidence in speaking and writing as well as an understanding and awareness of the world and other cultures. Many of our pupils already have two languages in their experience and French is a suitable addition to extend the range further.

Aims

1. To reflect St Augustine's Mission Statement.
2. To develop a body of knowledge about languages around the world
3. To learn about another country through the use of investigative and communication skills.

Objectives

The children will:

- have a knowledge and understanding of another European language
- observe similarities and differences between different languages
- use language to communicate about events
- investigate another culture using a variety of sources and presentational skills
- make comparisons between different linguistic styles

Although MFL is not compulsory until KS2, children in Reception and KS1 are exposed to the French language in simple everyday greetings. This acts as an introduction over time to another language.

- In KS2, each class has a timetabled weekly French lesson. Lessons across the Key Stage support the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing:
- Lessons are delivered through the use of Oak Academy resources plus use of French Essentials with Alexa as needed.
- Children are taught to listen attentively to spoken language and respond, joining in with songs, rhymes and games.
- Children develop an appreciation of a variety of stories, songs, poems and rhymes in French. that are delivered through the curriculum content.

Teaching and Learning Styles

We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language, including: games, role-play and action songs. Some members of our community already have experience of the language, especially those of particular African and Vietnamese heritage groups. These pupils provide an excellent model of the spoken language as well as sharing their knowledge of the culture of the country. We emphasise listening, responding and speaking skills in Years 3 and 4 with the addition of simple reading and writing skills as the pupils progress through Years 5 and 6. We make lessons as enjoyable as possible so that the children develop a positive attitude to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build the children's confidence through praise for any contribution they make, however tentative.

Assessment

The children are assessed continually throughout the year, with the teacher giving feedback orally and through marking. Written tasks are recorded in pupils' exercise books.

Equal Opportunities

At St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to promoting equal opportunities irrespective of socio-economic background, gender, disability and ethnicity in all areas of the curriculum. We believe all children should have access to and participation in the learning of languages and to be supported in this process.

English as an Additional Language

At St Augustine's we encourage all our children to achieve the highest possible standards. We do this through taking account of each child's life experiences and needs. A number of our children have particular learning and assessment requirements, which are linked to their progress in learning English as an additional language.

When delivering the MFL curriculum, we ensure we meet the full range of needs of those children who are also learning English as an additional language. This is in line with the requirements of the Race Relations Act 1976 and our equal opportunities policy.

Inclusion and Diversity

Throughout the teaching of French, children are encouraged to talk and work in mixed ability pairs as this enables all children to participate in lessons and promotes the inclusion of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), children who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and children who come from a family where English is also an additional language (EAL).

All children have equal access to the curriculum regardless of race or gender. The multicultural nature of society is taken into account when planning the curriculum.

Assessment

Assessment takes place during lessons. It is a continuous process that identifies pupil progress. Children are aware of the lesson objective(s) when assessing their own work. This helps them to understand their strengths and makes them aware of their own progress.

Resources

Teaching resources are available online for all members of staff and they have a printed copy of the Oak Academy scheme of work as well as online access.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed regularly by staff and governors or earlier if local or national directives are received.