

Weston Turville CE School

Mission Statement – TO PURSUE WISDOM WITHIN A CHRISTIAN ETHOS

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy

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Introduction

This policy document sets out the school's aims, principles and strategies for the delivery of a modern foreign language. Although the teaching of a modern foreign language is only compulsory for children in Key Stage 2 (DfE 2014), Weston Turville CE School believes that starting the teaching and learning of languages from the Foundation Stage gives children a strong foundation on which to build. Our focus language is French.

Rationale

Weston Turville School believes that the study of languages prepares pupils to participate in a rapidly changing world in which work and other activities are increasingly carried out in languages other than English. Pupils use languages to communicate information responsibly and creatively. They learn how to employ languages to enable rapid access to ideas and experiences from a wide range of people, communities and cultures. Increased capability in the use of languages promotes initiative and independent learning and encourages diversity within society. Children can also make relationships between English and other languages, studying aspects of etymology.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of teaching and learning a modern foreign language in our 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 similarities and differences in this and other countries
- To develop their speaking and listening skills
- To lay the foundations for future study
- To promote and include children within our school whose first language is not English
- To enrich our creative curriculum
- To demonstrate the importance of modern foreign languages in current affairs

Organisation

At Weston Turville School, MFL lessons take place from between thirty minutes in Key Stage 1 to one hour a week in Key Stage 2. Within the Foundation Stage, foreign languages are incorporated where appropriate within their creative curriculum. All MFL topics are listed within our Infant and Junior Topic Webs which can be found on the school website. The curriculum that we follow is based on the guidance given in the revised National Curriculum and the Buckinghamshire French Schemes of Work. Either the teachers, or our higher learning teaching assistants deliver the lessons with guidance from the English, Communication and Language (ECL) learning team. We have adapted

this to the context of our school and the abilities of our children. We teach the children progressively through the school to know and understand how to communicate ideas, facts and feelings through listening to, speaking, reading and writing French as expected in the standards of the 2014 National Curriculum.

Children will be able to achieve these standards by:

- Asking and answering questions
- Using correct pronunciation and intonation
- Memorising words
- Interpreting meaning
- Understanding basic grammar
- Using dictionaries
- Working in pairs and groups, and communicating in the other language
- Looking at life in another culture
- Comparing and contrasting similarities and differences between their way of living and that of someone in another country/ from another culture
- Communicating more effectively with class/ school EAL (English as an Additional Language) peers

Teaching and Learning Style

We use a variety of interactive and multi-sensory techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language. These include:

- Games
- Role play/ mime
- Songs (particularly action songs)
- Sound files
- Written French
- PowerPoint
- Videos/ DVDs
- Visitors/ native speakers
- CD-ROMs and internet sites
- International weeks

Recording, Assessment, Monitoring and Reporting

We believe that encouraging and engaging the children in languages is most important. However, we do follow the attainment targets as defined in the revised National Curriculum. There are four main areas of focus:

- Speaking and listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar, spelling and vocabulary

These strands are integral to our planning as well as assessment. We carry out assessments informally during the lessons, and occasionally when assessing written work

in line with our school's marking policy. Some evidence of achievement is kept in the form of photographs, recorded discussions and print-outs. The skill developments that the children attain in each French topic is assessed using the school's skill based assessment grids. These are passed to the head teacher and ECL learning team for monitoring. The head teacher and Year Six teachers also liaise with the local secondary schools, so that they are aware of the modern foreign language experiences of our children when they move to the next phase of their education.

Inclusion

All pupils regardless of race or gender, shall have the opportunity to develop MFL capability. Our school promotes equal opportunities and fairness of distribution of languages resources. EAL children are encouraged to use their language at home and at school, and parents are offered advice about when the home and English languages are best used and developed.

We monitor the level of access to languages in the home and school environment to ensure that no pupil is unduly disadvantaged. Positive images of languages being spoken by people of both sexes will be promoted. We recognise the motivational advantages of the use of languages by children with special educational needs. Interventions for SEN children, and children who are struggling with English and other languages will lead to the creation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) where specific targets relating to English and/ or modern foreign languages would be created where necessary.

Resources

We use a variety of resources (as identified in the Teaching and Learning section) in order to develop the teaching and learning of French within our school. Resources are distributed to relevant classrooms to ensure progression, and some are kept centrally in the 'Resources' cupboard to give general access. Many French computer programs are loaded onto our networked computer system which can be accessed by any teacher as well as the use of online games and activities. The ECL learning team is responsible for maintaining resources, monitoring their use and organising storage. Resource purchasing is in accordance with normal school procedures and is based upon the ECL budget.

We also offer the children a lunch time French club run by the La Jolie Ronde organisation which tutors children of all ages in French. This is paid for privately by parents.