

French at Sacred Heart School

***To learn a language is to offer the hand of friendship to another nation –
Marina Dixon***

As a Catholic School in Greater London, we recognise we are part of a multi-cultural society where the ability to speak another language is a highly valued skill. We are committed to the principle that learning another language helps foster a curiosity and deeper understanding of other cultures and the world in general. We believe that learning to understand, speak, read and write another language will provide the basis for learning other languages, and for those where English is an additional language, recognise the value of the language spoken. This in turn we hope will provide important opportunities for future study and work in other countries. We hope to provide a lifelong respect of other cultures and languages and respect the diverse culture we live in.

Intent

We recognise that language learning in its broadest sense has three core strands learning to communicate, learning about language and learning about and comparing different cultures (inter-cultural understanding). One of the main benefits to the children of learning a modern foreign language at primary school level is a social one.

We follow the national curriculum for modern foreign languages and we aim to ensure that all pupils:

- understand and respond to the spoken and written French language
- speak with increasing confidence, fluency and spontaneity, finding ways of communicating what they want to say, including through discussion and asking questions and 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 they have learnt
- discover and appreciate an appreciation of a range of writing in French

Implementation

At Sacred Heart French is taught as a discrete subject in KS2, by a specialist teacher. We currently adapt the programmes 'Salut Ça Va' in Year 3, 'Où Habites-Tu?' in Year 4 and 'Ici Et Là' in Year 5 and Year 6 to ensure clear progression and positive outcomes for all pupils so that they are encouraged to study a foreign language at the next stage in their learning.

French is taught in a variety of methods. Children will listen to spoken language and show understanding through speaking and writing. They will explore the patterns and sounds of languages through song and rhymes, linking this to spelling, sound and meaning of words. As well as engaging in conversations, asking questions and expressing opinion, children will read and show understanding of words, phrases

and language structure. During KS2 we will develop intonation and pronunciation when speaking and reading aloud.

Assessment and record keeping are integral parts of our teaching and learning. Children's written work provides records/evidence of pupils' achievements and progress which is subsequently reported to parents. At the end of the year pupils' attainment is reported to parents based on whether they are working towards criteria for the expected standard, working at the expected standard or working at a greater depth within the expected standard.

Impact

The impact reflects what we have achieved from our intent and we can see it by the vast array of activities and opportunities below which sees the three drivers 'Community, Whole Child and Communication' in full use.

Learning another language presents opportunities for the reinforcement of knowledge, skills and understanding developed in other curriculum areas using aspects of Literacy such as speaking and listening skills, knowledge and understanding of grammatical structures and sentence construction and in numeracy such as counting, calculations, money, the time and the date.

It enables us to promote the concept of a global citizen through maps and as well as developing pupils' cultural awareness of Europe and other French speaking countries.

Learning a language broadens pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding of the world around us and helps us to be tolerant of other people's beliefs and practices.

Children leave Sacred Heart with the vast majority having reached age related expectations and having fostered a curiosity and interest in the subject as they move onto secondary school.

2021 – KS2 – 93% at or above expected standard with 100% expected or better progress

2022 – KS2 88% at or above expected standard with 93% making expected or better progress (there were new arrivals from overseas in the Summer term 2022 which had an impact on the data)

Pupil voice

Year 2:

'I enjoy lots about French lessons, like saying the months and the days. I now know my months and the numbers. My mum said that she will need help when we go to France. The teachers, they know French really well and can answer questions! French lessons are awesome!'

'I enjoy watching the videos. Then I enjoy learning the months in a song. Because I speak Italian maybe it's easy for me. I want to learn full sentences and more numbers. I look forward to writing in French and the lessons are fun and exciting.'

Year 3:

'I like learning French because my family don't speak another language at home and I want to be able to speak another language. The video clips are really helpful for learning, as well as our puppet Claude and the songs really help, as they get stuck in your head.'

'I am going to France and I didn't know French and I feel the lessons have really helped me. I can name some of the animals and I can say 'Hello and how are you and your age'. The sheets help you memorise what you've learned, and working with a partner is helpful. It was hard at first to learn a new language. The games are my favourite.'

'I like to learn how to speak the language because once we travelled to a country and we went through France. I'm proud of my numbers, I even said 38 to my dad for his age! The DVD is helpful. Learning the colours and when you ask normal questions, that was hard. The lessons are kind of fun.'

Year 4:

'Sometimes we play Bingo and I enjoy that, and the numbers. And we might go to France and it's good to know French! I'm better at speaking and I know my directions. The PowerPoints explain the videos. The numbers were hard because with the high numbers you have to say different numbers like 90 you have to say 3 numbers. The games and written activities are my favourite. French is a language easy to enjoy and that makes me happy.'

'I like to learn new things because in the future I can learn more French things. I'm proud about the numbers: I could only count to 10 and now I can count to 100. The teachers have helped me learn. Saying o'clock, the time, that's a bit tricky. I like learning new things and the lessons are good and they're educational.'

Year 5:

I like learning French as it is great to learn another language and I would like to go to France and be able to speak French. The things that have helped me learn is the repetition from the teacher and our class mate who is French as the pronunciation can be hard as the words do not look like how they are said. I really like the games and throw the Frog – they are fun!

Year 6:

I like Twister and we made a human on the white board! I enjoyed making Monsieur Patate, the weather and the role plays. I know every colour, body parts and clothing. I like the videos when not everyone is talking. The actions when we did the weather helped me learn, and putting body parts on Monsieur Patate. Doing the high

numbers was challenging! My favourite is when we do the games and the Kahoots at the end of the topic. And the videos, if they are good: some teach you some don't. French lessons are pretty good, I enjoy learning new languages. French will be useful if I go to Paris.'

'I just enjoy everything. I have improved because I have learned new words, and the games have helped me. It's hard to remember the old words, and I look forward to which activity we're going to be doing. The lessons are fun and I learn something new every time.'