



Languages at Pitmaston Primary School - French

Intent

Learning a foreign language is a necessary part of being a member of a multi-cultural society and provides an opening to other cultures and communities. A high-quality language curriculum should foster children's curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world and other people who live within it. At Pitmaston, we aim to enable children to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and to understand and respond to its speakers, both in speech and in writing. We also aim to provide opportunities for them to communicate for practical purposes, and feel success in having made themselves understood, whilst also actively 'having a go' without the fear of getting it wrong. Language teaching should provide the foundation for learning further languages, equipping children to study and work in other countries in the future.

The National Curriculum for languages aims to ensure that all pupils:

1. Understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources
2. 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
3. Can write at varying length, for different purposes and audiences, using the variety of grammatical structures that they have learn.
4. Discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied.

Our intention is that children leave Pitmaston Primary with a natural curiosity and confidence to explore, other countries, cultures and languages, accepting that, in a multi-lingual society it is a valuable skill to be able to communicate effectively with others in another language. They will be excited and prepared to continue language learning at Secondary School.

Implementation

At Pitmaston Primary School children French is taught throughout Key Stage 2, using the resources and units of work from the scheme: Rigolo. In Lower KS2, children acquire basic skills and understanding of French with a strong emphasis placed on developing their Speaking and Listening skills. These will be embedded and further developed in Upper KS2, alongside Reading and Writing, gradually progressing onto more complex language concepts and greater learner autonomy. A variety of techniques are used to engage the children and enrich their learning experience, such as: games, songs, actions, videos, pronunciation guidance and more. The lessons include visual stories, oral, written and digital activities plus extension activities where they are needed.

In line with the National Curriculum for MFL, pupils at Pitmaston Primary school are taught to:

1. Listen attentively to spoken language and show understanding by joining in and responding
2. Explore the patterns and sounds of language through songs and rhymes and link the spelling, sound and meaning of words

3. Engage in conversations; ask and answer questions; express opinions and respond to those of others; seek clarification and help
4. Speak in sentences, using familiar vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures
5. Develop accurate pronunciation and intonation so that others understand when they are reading aloud or using familiar words and phrases
6. Present ideas and information orally to a range of audiences
7. Read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing
8. Appreciate stories, songs, poems and rhymes in the language
9. Broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new words that are introduced into familiar written material, including through using a dictionary
10. Write phrases from memory, and adapt these to create new sentences, to express ideas clear
11. Describe people, places, things and actions orally and in writing
12. Understand basic grammar appropriate to the language being studied, including (where relevant): feminine, masculine and neuter forms and the conjugation of high-frequency verbs; key features and patterns of the language; how to apply these, for instance, to build sentences; and how these differ from or are similar to English.

Impact

At Pitmaston we have high expectations of the teaching and learning of French. Children are supported and challenged as appropriate to meet age-related expectations across Key Stage 2.

The further impact of our French curriculum is that our children leave our school understanding the importance of learning a foreign language and how this can benefit them in the future.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Observing children speaking and listening in another language.
- Marking of written work.
- Images and videos of children completing speaking and listening activities.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Learning walks and book scrutiny.

The MFL subject leader monitors the delivery and impact of teaching and learning through work scrutiny, pupil voice and learning walks, to ensure the progression of knowledge and skills continues to be delivered to the highest standards. The subject leader also monitors the knowledge taught is retained by ensuring the children are provided with opportunities for retrieval of prior learning. This is embedded into lessons through a variety of retrieval based activities and continually revisited, ensuring that the learners are able to apply the skills they have been taught to a variety of different settings, showing independence with their learning.