

French

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."

<p style="text-align: center;">What do we love about our subject?</p> <p>In Key Stage Two, learning a modern foreign language allows children to experience different cultures and deepens their curiosity of the world. Moreover, learning a language enables them to compare and contrast their own language and provide them with prior knowledge as they transition into secondary education. It helps children to have a deeper understanding of the grammar complexities of our own language and apply those concepts to another language. Learning another language encourages respect for other people, and makes us more flexible and tolerant to a huge range of cultures. It also improves our children's problem-solving skills, as well as improving memory, concentration, and mental flexibility.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">How do we want pupils to talk about our subject?</p> <p>Primary pupils are very receptive to learning a new language and we want them to be willing and able to mimic pronunciation without the inhibitions and self-consciousness of older students. We want them to enjoy playing with the language through language games, songs and chants so that they can pick it up very quickly.</p> <p>We aim for the children to be uninhibited by the fear of making mistakes, and feel that they can express their creativity in a fun and proactive way.</p> <p>Essentially, we aim for our children to look forward to their weekly French lessons, and be excited that they are able to communicate with more people from different cultures. We want them to realise that those who learn a second language, and develop a love of that language, will have incredible opportunities to travel around the world and get to know other cultures</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">What are some of the big ideas in our subject?</p> <p>The national curriculum for Modern Foreign Languages aims to ensure that all pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand and respond to spoken and written language from a variety of authentic sources • 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 that they have learnt • discover and develop an appreciation of a range of writing in the language studied. 	<p style="text-align: center;">How is our subject taught and organised so learning is retained in the long-term memory?</p> <p>To bring the objectives in line with the new MFL curriculum, a new scheme of work has been introduced and French is taught as a discrete lesson. The scheme of work is suitable for specialist and non-specialist linguists, and provides lesson plans, interactive activities and worksheets for all year groups across key stage 2. The use of this scheme has improved the quality and consistency of French lessons being taught in the school and it has given the non-specialist staff more confidence with lesson delivery. It also ensures there is clear progression in learning: each year builds on and expands the previous years' experience.</p> <p>Children have the opportunity to communicate via listening, reading, writing and speaking French which all enhances their confidence and resilience. Reading is at the core of our school and reading the French language broadens their vocabulary and develops their ability to understand new words.</p> <p>Children are taught how to ask and answer questions, use correct pronunciation and intonation, memorise words, interpret meaning, understand basic grammar and use dictionaries – skills that are transferable across many subjects.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">How do we enrich our subject?</p> <p>We enrich our French learning with a variety of activities, including French song and poetry, stories, language games and video clips.</p> <p>By its nature, French will involve lots of interaction with visual, auditory and kinaesthetic prompts. There are French Focused Vocabulary Working Walls throughout school which focus on key vocabulary, and opportunities arise where children can practise their French speaking such as answering the register with a French phrase, inviting French speakers into school and having French days where children experience a variety of French foods.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What do we want pupils to leave Fairfield being able to do?</p> <p>The cognitive benefits of learning a language have a direct impact on a child's academic achievement. Compared to those without an additional language, bilingual children have improved reading, writing, and math skills, and they generally score higher on standardized tests.</p> <p>We want the children of Fairfield to be able to express their ideas and thoughts in another language and understand and respond in both speech and writing. We want them to have a deep understanding of living in a multi-cultural society and be inquisitive of other cultures and the wider world.</p> <p>Ultimately this provides a sound foundation for exploring further languages in Secondary Education, equipping them with the essential skills and cultural awareness needed for this enriching journey.</p>