



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL) POLICY

September 2021

**“To go further than we thought
To run faster than we hoped
To reach higher than we dreamed
To become the best we are able to be.”**

Introduction

At Helmshore Primary School we teach French to all Key Stage 2 children as part of the new curriculum. We encourage the children to develop an appreciation of other languages, life styles and cultures in ongoing work, wherever possible. We firmly believe that it is a good idea to introduce a new language to children when they are at primary school, as they tend to be more confident speaking aloud at this stage of their development. We believe that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of learning French at Helmshore 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.
- Use their knowledge of the foreign language with growing confidence, both to understand what they hear and read and to express themselves in speech and writing.
- To help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries.
- To develop their speaking and listening skills, familiarising themselves with the sounds and written form.
- To help children be aware of and accept cultural diversity to prepare them for life in a multi-cultural society.
- To lay the foundations for future study.

Organisation

We teach French to children in all Key Stage 2 classes for up to 1 hour per week. A specialist teacher teaches French in half hour slots to all classes in Key Stage 2 each week.

The Curriculum

French is the modern foreign language that we teach in Key Stage 2. Our specialist teacher teaches French using his own lesson plans and resources and over time we aim to create a scheme for learning based on these. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- Ask and answer questions.
- Use correct pronunciation and intonation.
- Appreciate stories, songs and rhymes in the language.
- Use dictionaries.
- Describe people, places and things and actions orally and in writing.
- Memorise words.
- Interpret meaning.
- Understand basic grammar.
- Work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other language.
- Look at life in another culture.

Teaching and learning style

Helmshore Primary has a clear vision to develop the language skills of students at KS2. Since September 2014, all students from years 3-6 receive a languages lesson from a specialist teacher and also access further resources and materials throughout each week. Through specialist intervention, class teachers are continually improving their own languages skills and are building the confidence needed to deliver high quality MFL to their classes in the near future.

Schemes of learning and lesson planning are written with specialist support in order to ensure that all key elements for progressing in MFL are included. Our vision is of a four year course which includes key grammar points and structural content to enable students to move onto KS3 with a high level of both proficiency and confidence. All our lesson plans contain references to the key skills highlighted by government guidance for MFL.

We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern languages; these include games, role-play, use of story books and songs (particularly action songs). We sometimes use puppets and soft toys to demonstrate the foreign language, and use mime to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language, as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation. We use a variety of resources to expose the children to more than one voice in the foreign language. We emphasise the listening and speaking skills over the reading and writing skills. We also use a multi-sensory and kinaesthetic approach to teaching, i.e. we try to introduce a physical element into some of the games, as we believe that this serves to reinforce memory. ICT materials are used, where appropriate, to enhance language learning. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we realise that this approach serves to develop a positive attitude in the children to the learning of modern foreign languages. We build children's confidence through constant praise for any contribution they make in the language.

Assessment

Informal assessment is carried out at regular intervals throughout each lesson by both the specialist teacher and the class teacher. We encourage peer assessment and share and evaluate success criteria so that the pupils are kept informed of their progress and know how to improve and understand the next stage of learning. We also informally assess the children's understanding of the French curriculum at the end of each unit of work in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject and inform future planning. We are developing individual French books to enable the children to track their own learning journey.

Monitoring and review

We monitor teaching and learning in the same way as we do all the other subjects that we teach in the school. The Modern Foreign Language Co-ordinators also report to the governing body on the progress of children in French in the same way as in any other subject. The governors' curriculum committee has the responsibility of monitoring the success of the teaching in French.

The governing body will review this policy in September 2022, or earlier if deemed necessary.

Signed
Headteacher

Signed
Chair of Governors

Date