

French

Intent: The curriculum aims for French are to introduce pupils to the language and the culture that surrounds it. We hope that children will develop the skills required to understand, analyse and retain the language they learn.

French is learnt from years 5 to 8. In years 5 and 6 the aim is for students to be able to talk about themselves: their name, age, family, where they live. Years 7 and 8 progresses on from this by using the textbooks Dynamo 1 and 2 as the base of our learning. In year 7 the topics include: Returning to school, school, free time, family life and my town. In year 8 students' work on: holidays, festivals, free time (technology focus), talking about where you live and sports. Covering these topic areas gives the students the core knowledge needed to be able to continue their learning at KS4.

Implementation: We cover the following skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, knowledge about language and language learning strategies. Many of these skills are useful for other subjects too. My key focus is ensuring that all pupils understand that their progress is unique to them and that with time and frequent practice, they will see their French improve. Formal assessment takes place once a term but as a class we discuss our mistakes, how improvements can be made and if there are any holes in our knowledge every lesson. We learn from each other: discussing how we retain the vocabulary, what differences and similarities there are between languages and what mistakes we made in an exercise and why. In lessons, there is a balance between the skills they require for taking their formal examinations in KS4 and beyond and learning about the cultural delights that language learning can offer.

Impact: By learning French, pupils will understand how effort and practice really shape their progress, which attempting tasks and making mistakes are essential to improve. They will develop a positive attitude to reflecting on their work and understanding their mistakes. Pupils will learn to decode the language, seek out rules to improve their work and relish the exceptions that exist rather than get frustrated by them. They will be open to new ideas and cultures and hopefully will enjoy a life of adventure and travel, discovering the joys of talking to people in their language and all the benefits that can come from that. Whatever they go on to do, having knowledge of foreign languages can be an asset in any walk of life.