



St Joseph's French Curriculum

Website Overview

Listening, speaking, reading and writing with growing confidence

French at St Josephs

At St Joseph's, French introduces children to another language and culture from Year 3. Pupils develop confidence in listening, speaking, reading and writing and learn how phonics, vocabulary and grammar work together to communicate meaning.

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced so that familiar words and structures are revisited and extended. Children move from recognising and rehearsing simple language to reading, writing and presenting increasingly detailed sentences and short connected texts.

Curriculum Intent

We aim to develop enthusiastic, resilient and confident language learners. By the end of Year 6, pupils should apply French phonics accurately, understand familiar spoken and written language, take part in conversations and communicate personal information and ideas using increasingly complex sentences.

- Build French vocabulary, phonics and grammar progressively from Year 3 to Year 6.
- Develop listening, speaking, reading and writing through frequent practice and purposeful communication.
- Help pupils recognise patterns, make links between sounds and spellings and construct sentences independently.
- Develop respect for other languages and cultures and recognise the value of intercultural understanding.

The French Curriculum

The curriculum combines language knowledge with regular opportunities to communicate. Five connected areas run through learning from Year 3 to Year 6.

Curriculum area	What children learn
Phonics and pronunciation	Learning French phonemes and graphemes, connecting letters and sounds and using this knowledge to pronounce familiar and unfamiliar words accurately.
Listening and speaking	Listening for key information, responding to greetings and questions and developing two-way conversations with growing fluency and confidence.
Reading and writing	Reading familiar words, phrases and short stories and writing labels, sentences and increasingly connected information for a clear purpose.
Grammar and sentences	Using noun gender, adjective position and agreement, plurals, pronouns, elision, connectives and subordinate clauses to build accurate sentences.
Vocabulary and culture	Developing useful vocabulary about everyday life while exploring French-speaking countries, food, stories, celebrations, dance and art.

Curriculum Implementation

French is taught from Year 3 through regular, carefully sequenced learning. Teachers identify the essential phonics, vocabulary and grammar in each unit and provide frequent opportunities to hear, repeat, retrieve and apply language in different contexts.

- Lessons include songs, stories, games, questions, paired talk, reading aloud and short writing tasks so that language is practised in memorable contexts.
- Teachers model accurate pronunciation and intonation and explicitly teach links between phonemes and graphemes.
- New vocabulary and sentence structures are introduced in small steps and revisited through retrieval and spaced practice.
- Children learn to ask and answer questions, express likes and dislikes, describe familiar topics and present information about themselves.
- Reading and writing tasks reinforce spoken language and help pupils apply grammar with increasing accuracy and independence.

Progression Through School

Phase	Main focus	Developing as a linguist
Year 3	Year 3 foundations	Pupils learn key French sounds, greetings, simple questions and high-frequency vocabulary. They read and write familiar words and create simple accurate sentences.
Year 4	Year 4 growing independence	Pupils extend greetings and questions, recognise most French sounds, use adjective position and noun plurals, and read and write short phrases and sentences.
Year 5	Year 5 connected communication	Pupils apply phonics to short stories, discuss weather and clothing, use adjective agreement and third-person forms and link ideas across a series of sentences.
Year 6	Year 6 confident application	Pupils pronounce unfamiliar words accurately, tell the time, discuss sport and health, use subordinate clauses and connectives and present personal information with confident intonation.

Language Learning Skills

Across the curriculum, children learn that successful communication draws on listening, pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and confidence. They use clues, recognise patterns, rehearse language, check meaning and adapt known structures to express new ideas.

- Year 3 pupils listen carefully, imitate French sounds, recognise familiar words and use short phrases to greet, answer and describe.
- Year 4 pupils read and speak longer phrases, ask and answer a wider range of questions and begin to apply grammatical patterns when writing.
- Years 5 and 6 pupils read short texts, sustain conversations, combine sentences and present information with increasingly accurate pronunciation, grammar and expression.

Key Language Themes

French begins in Year 3, building secure foundations in sounds, greetings and everyday vocabulary.

Year 3: Greetings, numbers 1 to 10, colours, animals, days of the week, fruit and simple sentences.

Year 4: Extended greetings, numbers to 60, family, food and drink, noun plurals, adjective position and short conversations.

Years 5 and 6: Numbers to 100, dates, seasons, weather, clothing, body parts, time, sport, health, personal information and increasingly complex sentences.

Curriculum Themes

Three principles connect French learning across Key Stage 2 and support confident communication.

Confident communication

Children listen attentively, speak with increasingly accurate pronunciation and intonation and develop confidence in conversation and presentation.

Patterns and grammar

Children notice how French works, make connections between sounds and spellings and apply grammatical patterns to build sentences.

Intercultural understanding

Children learn about French-speaking countries and explore food, stories, songs, celebrations, dance and art while valuing the languages and cultures within our school community.

Curriculum Impact

By the end of Key Stage 2, children will have developed secure foundations in French phonics, vocabulary and grammar. They will understand familiar spoken and written language, pronounce words with growing accuracy and communicate information through connected speech and writing.

Pupils will also approach unfamiliar language with useful strategies, recognise patterns, express preferences and personal information, take part in short conversations and show respect and curiosity towards other languages and cultures.

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