

Saint Mary's C of E Primary School

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Policy

Mission Statement

Our Vision

To be a learning community that promotes the unique gifts, wellbeing and potential of every person. Our work is founded on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, building on His message of equality, peace and justice, guided by His words *'As I have loved you, so you must love one another'* (John 13:34).

1 Introduction

In our school we teach a foreign language to all Key Stage 2 children as part of the normal school curriculum. We do this for several reasons. Firstly, we believe that many children really enjoy learning to speak another language. Secondly, we also believe that the earlier a child is exposed to a foreign language, the faster the language in question is acquired. We also 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 less self-conscious and more willing to speak aloud at this stage of their development. It is broadly believed that the early acquisition of a foreign language facilitates the learning of other foreign languages later in life.

2 Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of learning a modern foreign language in primary school are:

- to further interest in learning other languages;
- to introduce young children to another language in a way that is enjoyable and fun;
- to make young children aware that language has structure, and that the structure differs from one language to another;
- to help children develop their awareness of cultural differences in other countries;
- to develop their speaking and listening skills;
- to lay the foundations for future study;
- to stimulate EAL children's learning skills.

3 Organisation

We teach a foreign language for 30 minutes a week. The class teacher normally teaches the class.

4 The curriculum

4.1 French is the modern foreign language that we teach in our school.

4.2 The curriculum that we follow is based on LCP Primary French, developed according to guidance given in the revised National Curriculum. We teach the children to know and understand how to:

- ask and answer questions;
- use correct pronunciation and intonation;
- memorise words;
- interpret meaning;
- understand basic grammar;
- use dictionaries;
- work in pairs and groups, and communicate in the other language;
- look at life in another culture.

5 Teaching and learning style

5.1 We base the teaching on the guidance material in LCP Primary French, which have been adapted to the context of our school and the abilities of our children.

5.2 We use a variety of techniques to encourage the children to have an active engagement in the modern foreign language: these include games, role-play and songs (particularly action songs). We often use interactive games and virtual teacher, and when possible also invite native speakers into the classroom, or allow French speaking pupils to take ownership of listening and speaking activities, in order to expose the children to more than one voice in the foreign language. We frequently use mime to accompany new vocabulary in the foreign language, as this serves to demonstrate the foreign language without the need for translation. 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. We make the lessons as entertaining and enjoyable as possible, as we recognize 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 foreign language, however tentative.

6 Assessment

6.1 We assess the children in order to ensure that they make good progress in this subject. This is done informally during the lessons in order to evaluate what the children have learned. Assessment is in four key areas:

- listening and responding;
- speaking;

- reading and responding.