

FRENCH AT VALLEY ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTENT

Our French curriculum at Valley Road enables learners to manipulate language so that by the end of KS2, pupils can build their own meaning, sentences and structures independently. It supports pupils to be effective communicators who can confidently use their knowledge and skills to become global citizens and lifelong linguists, with a clear understanding of language and culture.

Our curriculum has a focus on the most important aspects of language: vocabulary, phonics and grammar. These are learned and applied through practice in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

IMPLEMENTATION

French is taught throughout KS2 for approximately 30 minutes a week. Children are immersed in the spoken language during these sessions and exposed to French customs and language conventions too.

Knowledge and vocabulary rich: Lessons and units are knowledge and vocabulary rich. Both new and revisited vocabulary are listed in each lesson so the teacher can see which words are taught and when. Pupils build on what they already know to develop deep knowledge and apply this knowledge in the form of skills. Pupils practise language in each of the four skills and often use two or more skills together in a task.

Sequenced and coherent: Across KS2 careful consideration is given to sequencing and building coherence via vertical threads so that pupils build on prior knowledge and make meaningful connections. This method allows for the careful mapping of grammar points to ensure regular revisiting.

STRENGTHS

At Valley Road school, we are fortunate to have a diverse population of pupils from a variety of cultural backgrounds. Many of our pupils speak and / or understand more than one language alongside English.

We also have several members of our teaching staff who are modern foreign language graduates, in French, Spanish and German. As a school, we would like to foster greater links between our language competent team and native French speakers from among our parent community, with the aim of working together to create French extra-curricular activities to benefit our pupils.

FRENCH INTRODUCTION

At Valley Road, we strive to develop pupils who have cultural curiosity and are inspired and equipped to communicate across the wider world. Learning a modern foreign language enables pupils to understand different ways of life outside of their school life and equips them with the skills to be able to immerse themselves in a different culture. This is ever more relevant due to increasing opportunities for recreation and leisure.

Within our French teaching at Valley Road, we focus upon three strands of knowledge; Phonics, Vocabulary and Grammar because we recognise that these underpin the development of confident communication.



IMPACT

- Children enjoy French and are engaged in lessons, participating actively. They understand the value of learning a foreign language.
- Children deepen their knowledge of France and its culture. Children talk about other languages they know or can speak at home. They understand that our world is diverse.
- Children demonstrate that they can correctly pronounce an increasing array of vocabulary they have learned.
- Children can increasingly manipulate language to speak or write sentences creatively using prior knowledge of grammar, phonics and vocabulary.

INCLUSION

Accessible

We follow a French programme from Oak academy that has been designed to be accessible and addresses the needs of all pupils by meeting accessibility guidelines and requirements. The resources we use have a focus on clear explanations, modelling and frequent checks for understanding, with guided and independent practice. Lessons are chunked into learning cycles and redundant images and information are minimised to manage cognitive load. Our resources deliberately have no reference to year groups so that they can be used when pupils are ready, regardless of their age.

Diverse

The Oak Academy French programme prioritises creating a diverse curriculum by committing to diversity in teaching and teachers, and the language, texts and media they use, so all pupils feel positively represented. To model the diverse populations that share a common language in French lessons, pupils meet characters from North Africa, Europe and the Caribbean.

SUBJECT OUTCOMES

The French teaching program we use at Valley Road is sequenced to enable frequent application of phonics, vocabulary and grammar in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to first develop understanding and then make independent communication possible in new and authentic contexts. Pupils are given the tools to build their own sentences.

SUBJECT ASSESSMENT

Valley Road teachers use ongoing, formative assessment. The resources we use are adaptable so that we can edit or add checks for understanding, adapt practice tasks to better reflect the prior knowledge of our pupils, substitute vocabulary with words more relevant to our own pupils, or add local context such as information about a partner school in another country.

TO IMPROVE, OUR PRIORITIES ARE:

To raise the profile of French within the school and school community and ensure that pupils have the most rewarding language learning experience possible, through language days and assemblies, where French traditions and culture will be celebrated.