

French – Intent, Implementation and Impact

“A different language is a different vision of life.”

Federico Fellini

French - Intent

At Thwaites School, we offer a carefully planned sequence of lessons, ensuring progressive coverage of the skills required by the national curriculum. Our chosen themes - Time Travelling, Let's Visit a French Town and This Is France - introduce the culture of French-speaking countries and communities. We aim to foster children's curiosity and help deepen their understanding of the world. A linear curriculum has been chosen to allow opportunity for children to gradually build on their skills. The French curriculum at Thwaites School enables children to express their ideas and thoughts in French and provides opportunities to interact and communicate with others both in speech and in writing. At the heart of the Thwaites School French curriculum is the desire to expose children to authentic French experiences. Although modern foreign languages coverage does not begin until KS2 in the National Curriculum, we decided as a school to introduce children to the basics in KS1, so that they are fully prepared to build on these foundations in KS2. In Lower KS2, children continue to build on basic skills and understanding of French with a strong emphasis placed on developing their speaking and listening skills. These are then embedded and further developed in Upper KS2, alongside reading and writing, gradually progressing onto more complex language concepts and greater learner autonomy. We intend to inspire pupils to develop a love of languages and to expand their horizons to other countries, cultures and people. We aim to help children grow into curious, confident and reflective language learners and to provide them with a foundation that will equip them for further language studies.

French – Implementation

We have purposely sequenced lessons so that prior learning is recalled and built upon with opportunities for revision of language and grammar built in. Our lessons and resources help children to build on prior knowledge alongside the introduction of new skills. The knowledge and skills have been carefully mapped out, providing structure and context as well as offering an insight into the culture of French-speaking countries and communities. The introduction and revision of key vocabulary and grammatical structures is built into each lesson and then developed through interactive activities so that children have opportunities to

repeat and revise their learning both in written and spoken form. 'French Days' have been built into the curriculum that bring all of the EYFS, KS1 And KS2 learners together around an agreed French theme such as a French Café. These opportunities aim to enrich and deepen their understanding of the French culture through a holistic approach, allowing children to use their knowledge and skills in a 'real-world' setting.

French - Impact

Through the delivery of a robust French curriculum, children will enjoy learning a new language and be able to apply their skills, in both written and oral form. A thorough assessment system enables children and teachers to track their progress against the knowledge and skills mapped out across the school to ensure gaps in learning are addressed so all children can progress in French at the same pace. Carefully planned enrichment activities around the French language ensure that French is enjoyed by pupils across school, therefore ensuring they are ready for their next stage in education and encouraging them to embark on further language studies.

