Askwith primary School

Modern Foreign Languages (French) Rationale 2026–2027

Our Vision

At Askwith Primary School, learning French forms part of a broad and ambitious education. It enables pupils to communicate beyond their first language, appreciate linguistic diversity and develop curiosity about French-speaking cultures and communities. We aim for every pupil to become a confident and enthusiastic language learner.

Curriculum Intent

Our coherent and cumulative curriculum develops pupils' listening, speaking, reading and writing alongside their knowledge of phonics, vocabulary and grammar. It fulfils the National Curriculum requirements for Languages at Key Stage 2 and establishes secure foundations for continued language learning at secondary school.

Curriculum Principles

The curriculum is informed by Ofsted's Languages Research Review (2021) and the Education Endowment Foundation's evidence on cognitive science and retrieval practice. Phonics, vocabulary and grammar are sequenced carefully so pupils understand French sound-spelling relationships, acquire an increasingly useful vocabulary and apply grammatical patterns rather than rely solely on memorised phrases.

Progression and Implementation

Learning is mapped from early language awareness in EYFS to increasingly accurate and independent communication in Key Stage 2. Teachers use explicit modelling, purposeful oral rehearsal, guided practice and regular retrieval to connect new language with prior learning. Pupils revisit and apply important content across different contexts, strengthening retention, fluency and confidence.

Inclusion

The curriculum is ambitious for every pupil. Adaptive teaching, visual support, structured rehearsal, carefully chosen scaffolds and additional practice help pupils access the intended learning without reducing expectations. Support is gradually withdrawn as pupils become more independent.

Cultural Understanding and Personal Development

Pupils explore French-speaking countries and communities through language, traditions, celebrations, stories, music, art and contemporary life. These experiences broaden pupils' horizons and develop curiosity, empathy and respect for cultural diversity.

Assessment

Assessment is closely aligned with the taught curriculum. Questioning, retrieval activities, practical communication, quizzes, written application and curriculum conversations help teachers establish what pupils know, remember and can apply. Findings inform responsive teaching and curriculum refinement.

Leadership and Quality Assurance

The subject leader evaluates implementation and impact through proportionate lesson drop-ins, pupil voice, work scrutiny, planning reviews and assessment evidence. Monitoring focuses on whether pupils are building, retaining and applying language knowledge with increasing accuracy and independence.

Impact

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils have secure foundations in French phonics, vocabulary and grammar. They can understand and communicate increasingly complex ideas across listening, speaking, reading and writing and are well prepared for the next stage of language learning.

French will be monitored throughout 2026-2027 to identify any emerging priorities.

Review date: September 2026
Next review: September 2027