

# Askwith Primary School

## Modern foreign languages rationale

*'Learning a language is 'a liberation from insularity and provides an opening to other cultures'. It helps to equip pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.'* (Ofsted 2021)

### Intent

French at Askwith Primary School aims to foster curiosity, cultural awareness and confident communication. Our vision is for every pupil to develop a strong foundation in vocabulary, grammar and phonics, enabling them to express themselves with increasing fluency. The curriculum builds character through resilience, risk-taking and pride in learning a new language. It aligns with the whole-school intent for pupils to know more, remember more and do more and supports equality of access for SEND and disadvantaged pupils.

Our French curriculum is intentionally sequenced from EYFS to Year 6. Substantive knowledge includes vocabulary, grammatical structures and accurate pronunciation. Disciplinary knowledge focuses on language-learning strategies such as pattern-spotting, retrieval and applying grammar rules. Each unit builds on secure prior learning. Endpoints define what pupils should know by the end of each year group. The curriculum is ambitious for all pupils and reflects national curriculum expectations.

### Implementation

The long-term plan outlines how speaking, listening, reading and writing progress systematically. Progression maps detail vocabulary growth (e.g., greetings → family → daily routines), grammar progression (gender, articles, present tense, adjective agreement) and phonics development (/on/, /eu/, nasal sounds). EYFS builds listening and vocabulary foundations through songs, stories and cultural exposure.

Teachers use explicit instruction, modelling and repetition. Retrieval practice begins every lesson, consolidating long-term memory. Lessons incorporate speaking, games, songs and paired practice to build confidence. Adaptive teaching ensures SEND pupils access learning through visuals, sentence scaffolds and chunked vocabulary. Misconceptions (e.g., pronunciation errors) are addressed immediately. Resources include knowledge maps, flashcards and audio models.

## **Impact**

Impact is measured through ongoing questioning, mini-quizzes and end-of-unit assessments. Pupils demonstrate progression in pronunciation, writing accuracy and ability to hold simple conversations. Pupil work shows improved sentence construction and grammar recall. The majority of pupils achieve age-related expectations and gaps are identified quickly, with targeted support planned.

## **Inclusion**

SEND pupils benefit from scaffolded dialogue frames, simplified vocabulary, dual-coded resources and repetition. The graduated approach ensures barriers are removed through targeted interventions and close work with the SENCo. High expectations remain consistent—adaptations support access without lowering challenge.

## **Personal Development & SMSC**

French supports spiritual development through appreciation of languages and cultures. Moral development emerges through understanding tolerance and empathy for others. Social skills are built through paired conversation tasks. Cultural development includes exposure to French-speaking countries, music, art and festivals. Pupils gain cultural capital through enrichment such as French Day, food tasting and inviting fluent speakers.

## **Leadership & Professional Development**

Subject leadership includes learning walks, book looks and pupil voice interviews. Findings show increased pupil confidence and accuracy over time. Planning scrutiny ensures consistency. Staff meetings provide opportunities to model good practice and share resources.

Staff training includes pronunciation workshops, phonics CPD and modelling techniques. The subject leader undertakes ongoing CPD in MFL pedagogy and shares research insights with staff. CPD evidence demonstrates improved consistency and accuracy in teaching.

## **Enhancements**

Authentic experiences—including visits from fluent speakers—provide cultural enrichment and extend pupils' understanding of the French language and culture.